

## INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE

**Penny Rice, Chair**

**2006-2007**

### **Membership**

- Dr. Pascal A. Bizarro, Assistant Professor, Accountancy (term ends August 2007)
- Mr. Joey Brent, Assistant Athletic Director for Information Technology, Athletics, Staff Council Representative
- Ms. Buffy Choinski, Associate Professor, Library (term ends August 2008)
- Dr. Barbara J. Dougherty, Director, Center for Educational Research and Evaluation and Professor, Curriculum & Instruction (term ends August 2007)
- Dr. Maurice Eftink, Associate Provost (non-voting)
- Mr. Kevin Herrera, Assistant Professor, Library (term ended September 2006)
- Ms. Amy Mark, Associate Professor, Library (term ends August 2008)
- Ms. Meagan Letteri, Undergraduate Student Representative
- Mr. Henrique Momm, Graduate Student Council Representative
- Ms. Penny Rice, Instructional Technology Specialist, Office of Information Technology (chair) (non-voting)
- Ms. M.K. Smith, Academic Computing Coordinator, Office of Information Technology (non-voting)
- Ms. Elizabeth Stephan, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2009)
- Dr. Stephen T. Threlkeld, Professor, Biology (term ended September 2006)
- Ms. Christina Torbert, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2009)
- Dr. Dawn E. Wilkins, Associate Professor, Computer and Information Science (term ended September 2006)

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee provided guidance on a number of important technology projects during the 2006-2007 Academic Year. This report describes these projects and summarizes the involvement of the committee. Committee minutes are available at the Web address, [www.olemiss.edu/ftdc/INSTTECH.html](http://www.olemiss.edu/ftdc/INSTTECH.html).

### **Classroom Technology**

Provost Staton charged the Instructional Technology Standing Committee with the task of identifying candidate classrooms for technology enhancements and overseeing the implementation during Summer 2006. This committee conducted a comprehensive

analysis that included proposals from department chairs and a survey of classroom utilization for the fall and spring semesters.

Using this information, the following classrooms were selected for technology enhancements: Anderson 11, Bondurant 107W, Bondurant 114E, Carrier 119, and Hume 110 were outfitted with ceiling-mounted projectors, screens, wall connection panels, and Xtron controllers that allow for hookup of various multimedia devices. Bishop 102 was selected to be outfitted with a full multimedia lectern, including ceiling-mounted projector, screen, computer, laptop connection, VCR/DVD player, document camera, and sound system. Guyton 312 and 313 were each selected to receive a ceiling-mounted projector, screen, wall connection panel, and Xtron controller along with a computer on a cart. Bondurant 116W, which received a multimedia lectern several years ago, was selected to receive a new electronic projection screen to replace the existing broken one.

This year the committee also accepted recommendations for placement of wireless access points on campus. Three locations were suggested, and of these, the committee selected the Science Library to receive two wireless access points. These access points will be BlueSocket accessible so that students can access the Science Library's wireless network using WebID and password.

Feedback from faculty who regularly use this classroom technology has been very positive, and there is much interest in continuing the program.

## **Blackboard**

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee continues to provide valuable insight into the management and operation of Blackboard on the University of Mississippi campus. Blackboard is a Web-based, course management tool that has been in use by UM faculty for over nine years.

The Blackboard servers were updated in December 2006 to provide greater system stability and more enhanced features for instructors. Among the new features are new online assessment question types, an enhanced gradebook, the ability to create a course glossary, spell checking capability, and an adaptive release option which allows instructors to create custom learning paths for students.

Blackboard was also enhanced this year by the addition of the SafeAssignment building block. SafeAssignment is a plagiarism detection software which compares student papers against an Internet archive of over 8 billion documents, scholastic and news databases with over 9 million articles, and an intra-institutional archive of previously submitted

papers. The response to SafeAssignment has been favorable with over 150 instructors making use of the program. The committee is very pleased with the implementation of all the new Blackboard features this year.

## **Clickers**

This year, the Instructional Technology Standing Committee investigated the use of Classroom Response Systems (also known as Clickers) on the UM campus. Faculty were surveyed to determine which brands of clickers were being used on campus. One particular brand of clickers, PRS RF by Interwrite, was the most widely used. While investigating clicker use on campus, the committee determined it would be beneficial to standardize on a single brand of clicker for several reasons. It would eliminate the need for students to purchase different brands of clickers for UM classes. Standardizing might influence the bookstore to initiate a clicker buy-back policy. RF receivers could be placed in all the classroom technology rooms so that faculty using these rooms would not have to carry a receiver to class. Standardizing would also make it easier for Information Technology (IT) to support this technology.

The committee recommended that the campus sign a standardization agreement with Interwrite for the use of PRS RF clickers. As part of this agreement, instructors can receive a free RF receiver and clicker to use in their classes. The committee also recommended that the Faculty Technology Development Center (FTDC) purchase a kit of 50 clickers and one receiver to use for training and for faculty to check out for use in the classroom.

Several clicker training sessions were held throughout the year in an effort to introduce faculty to clickers and to provide more advanced training on the use of this technology. A clicker user group was also formed to provide a support system for interested faculty. A clicker Web site ([www.olemiss.edu/clickers](http://www.olemiss.edu/clickers)) was created to provide information specific to using clickers at UM.

## **Other**

Based on the success of the previous year's Technology Enhancement Week, offered during the early part of the fall semester, the Instructional Technology Standing Committee recommended that the Faculty Technology Development Center (FTDC) continue to sponsor these workshops each year. During September 2006, the following workshops were well attended by UM faculty and staff: Adobe Acrobat, Basics of Adobe Photoshop, Capturing and Editing Digital Video, Creating DVDs, Dreamweaver, E-mail to Groups, Faculty Test Scoring, Flash, Imaging and Scanning Basics, Introduction

to Blackboard, Introduction to High Performance Computing and the MCSR, Introduction to UNIX/LINUX, Mail Call, Managing E-mail Mailing Lists, Mathematica for Beginners, Overview of Academic Technology@UM, PowerPoint for Beginners, PowerPoint for Advanced Users, Statistics Starter, Using Excel to Manage a Gradebook, Using Multimedia Classrooms on the UM Campus, Using Clickers in the Classroom, Using the Blackboard Gradebook, and Virus Free Computing.

The Provost's Office continued TACIT, the program to replace faculty desktops, for the eighth year. The Instructional Technology Standing Committee provided advice and guidance on its implementation. The committee also provided helpful input regarding the training offered to TACIT participants.