

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE
Penny Rice, Chair
2007-2008

Membership

- Ms. Buffy Choinski, Associate Professor, Library (term ends August 2008)
- Mr. Kevin Cozart, Staff Assistant, Sarah Isom Center, Staff Council Representative
- Dr. Robert Doerksen, Assistant Professor, Medicinal Chemistry (term ends August 2010)
- Dr. Maurice Eftink, Associate Provost (non-voting)
- Dr. Joseph Gladden, Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy (term ends August 2010)
- Mr. James Hendrick, Undergraduate Student Representative
- Mr. Henrique Momm, Graduate Student Council Representative
- Ms. Penny Rice, Instructional Technology Specialist, Office of Information Technology (chair) (non-voting)
- Mrs. M.K. Smith, Academic Computing Coordinator, Office of Information Technology (non-voting)
- Ms. Elizabeth Stephan, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2009)
- Mrs. Christina Torbert, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2009)
- Dr. Gregory Tschumper, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry (term ends August 2008)

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee provided guidance on a number of important technology projects during the 2007-2008 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.

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 2007. 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 committee recommended that the following rooms receive technology upgrades this year.

Room	Technology
Farley Auditorium 202	Full Multimedia Lectern
Farley 003	Ceiling Mounted Projector, Wall Plate, Xtron Controller
Farley 125	Ceiling Mounted Projector, Wall Plate, Xtron Controller
Farley 138	Ceiling Mounted Projector, Wall Plate, Xtron Controller
Faulkner Room (Library)	Ceiling Mounted Projector, Wall Plate, Xtron Controller
Guyton 115	Ceiling Mounted Projector
Guyton 116	Ceiling Mounted Projector
Guyton 214	Ceiling Mounted Projector
Guyton 216	Ceiling Mounted Projector
Meek 219	Ceiling Mounted Projector, Wall Plate, Xtron Controller, Screen
Conner 211	Podcasting System installed in existing lectern, Portable Podcast Recorder
Isom 210 Film Editing Lab	2 iMacs, 2 miniDV Recorder/Players
Meek Auditorium	Large Projection Screen

The wall connection panels and Xtron controllers that were installed allow for hookup of various multimedia devices. The full multimedia lectern that was installed in Farley Auditorium includes a ceiling-mounted projector, screen, computer, laptop connection, VCR/DVD player, document camera, and sound system.

In an effort to make existing classroom technology more user-friendly, the committee oversaw the development of a Rapid Response Team for Classroom Technology. This team, comprised of IT staff and student workers, will provide a fast response to any problem an instructor may encounter in the enhanced classrooms. As part of this effort, multiple training sessions will be provided each semester so that instructors can become familiar with the technology available in their classroom. A Web page for reporting problems with Classroom Technology was also created.

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 ten years.

The Blackboard servers were updated in December 2007 to provide greater system stability and more enhanced features for instructors. Among the new features are new discussion boards, which include thread and forum grading; a performance dashboard, which provides instructors an at-a-glance view of last login, postings, grades, etc.; new assessment question types; and support for multiple language settings. Blackboard bought out the MyDropBox SafeAssignment product that we purchased last year to help detect plagiarism. Blackboard now provides this product for free as part of their Learning System.

The committee also reviewed several new Blackboard building blocks this year. CourseFeed and Blackboard Sync both provide users a way to view their Blackboard course materials within Facebook. Blackboard Sync will be released in May. It is a free add-on to the Blackboard Learning System, and the committee recommended that we install it when it becomes available. The third building block that the committee reviewed was the Learning Objects Campus Pack. This suite of software adds the ability to create blogs, wikis, podcasts, and ePortfolios within Blackboard. Since the University SACS committee has chosen to focus on enhancing student writing skills, this committee felt that providing the capability to journal (using blogs) and to create ePortfolios would be a step in the right direction. The committee recommended that we pursue funding to provide this software for our campus.

Clickers

Last year, the Instructional Technology Standing Committee investigated the use of Classroom Response Systems (also known as Clickers) and 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. This year, the committee conducted a survey of instructors and students who used clickers in their classes to determine the satisfaction level with the standard PRS brand clicker. The survey results are available at www.olemiss.edu/clickers/StudentSurveyResults2007.ppt and www.olemiss.edu/clickers/InstructorClickerSurvey.xls.

One of the things the committee learned this year, is that there is a definite learning curve for instructors before they become comfortable and proficient with the clicker technology. The FTDC will continue to provide clicker training sessions throughout the year in an effort to introduce faculty to clickers and to provide more advanced training on the use of this technology. They will also continue to promote the clicker user group, which was formed to provide a support system for interested faculty.

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 2007, the following workshops were well attended by UM faculty and staff: Adobe Acrobat; Basics of Adobe Photoshop; Breaking the WebMail Habit; Capturing and Editing Digital Video; Computationally Enhance Your Research and Instruction; Course Presentation Tools: Alternatives to PowerPoint for Mac Users; Creating and Publishing Enhanced Podcasts; Creating Blackboard Tests, Assessments and Surveys; Creating DVDs; Dreamweaver; Facebook, MySpace and More: A Panel Discussion on Net Generation Communication Tools; Faculty Test Scanning; Getting Started with Mathematica; Imaging and Scanning Basics; Increase Student Involvement in the Classroom Using Clickers; Introduction to Blackboard; Introduction to PRS Clickers; Statistics for Research; Using Blackboard to Create SafeAssignments to Detect Plagiarism; Using the Blackboard Gradebook and Discussion Board; Using Excel to Manage a Gradebook, Using Multimedia Classrooms on the UM Campus; Virus Free Computing; What's New in Mathematica 6; and What's New in PowerPoint 2007.

The Provost's Office continued TACIT, the program to replace faculty desktops, for the ninth 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.