

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE
Penny Rice, Chair
2011-2012

Membership

- Mr. Jimmy Ball, Deputy CIO for Academic Technology, Office of Information Technology (non-voting)
- Ms. Melissa Dennis, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2011)
- Dr. Robert J. Doerksen, Associate Professor, Medicinal Chemistry (term ends August 2012)
- Dr. Maurice Eftink, Associate Provost (non-voting)
- Dr. Tamar Goulet, Associate Professor, Biology (term ends August 2014)
- Mr. Omar Hamid, Undergraduate Student Council Representative
- Mrs. Gail Herrera, Assistant Dean, Library (term ends August 2012)
- Dr. Ruth Mirtz, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2013)
- Mrs. Patricia Oswald, Administrative Coordinator, College of Liberal Arts, Staff Council Representative
- Ms. Penny Rice, Instructional Technology Specialist, Office of Information Technology (chair) (non-voting)
- Mrs. Debra Riley-Huff, Assistant Professor, Library (term ends August 2012)
- Ms. Debra Scardino, Graduate Student Council Representative
- Mr. Wayne Shaw, Assistant to the Dean, College of Liberal Arts (non-voting)
- Dr. Gregory Tschumper, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry (term ends August 2011)
- Dr. Kelly Wilson, Associate Professor, Psychology (term ends August 2013)

The Instructional Technology Standing Committee provided guidance on a number of important technology projects during the 2011-2012 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

Each summer, the Office of the Provost charges the Instructional Technology Standing Committee with the task of identifying candidate classrooms for technology enhancements and overseeing their implementation. In Summer

2011, 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
J.D. Williams Library	2 lecterns and 5-62" HDTV monitors
Coulter 204	Replacement LCD projector
Holman 30	Lectern
Holman Podiums	Retrofit 4 existing podiums for flat-screen LCD monitors
Conner	Smartboard
Guyton 115	Lectern, projection screen, computer, sound system, controller
Guyton 116	Lectern, projection screen, computer, sound system, controller
Guyton 214	Lectern, computer, sound system, controller
Guyton 216	Lectern, computer, sound system, controller
Guyton 324	Replacement computer
Guyton 339	Replacement computer
Lenoir	Complete wireless network coverage
Coulter	Wireless network coverage in classroom spaces, first through fourth floors
Isom/Theatre	Wireless network, all floors

In an effort to make existing classroom technology more user-friendly, the committee continued to oversee the Rapid Response Team for Classroom Technology. This team, comprised of IT staff and student workers, provides a fast response to any problem an instructor may encounter in the enhanced classrooms.

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 fourteen years.

The Blackboard servers were updated to version 9.1 SP4 in late November 2011 in order to facilitate the conversion of Ole Miss Online courses from Angel to Blackboard. Ole Miss Online has been using Angel as their course management system for several years, and recently Angel was purchased by Blackboard, thus making it necessary to convert courses that were in Angel to the campus Blackboard system. This upgrade of Blackboard was needed in order to allow the Angel course packages to be imported successfully. Another Blackboard upgrade was performed in May 2012 due to the fact that the Blackboard system was only compatible with older Web browsers. Based on feedback from this committee, it was decided not to wait until the usual December upgrade period but to go ahead with an upgrade to version 9.1 SP7 in May that would make Blackboard compatible with a wider range of newer Web browsers, including Chrome, Safari, and Internet Explorer 9. This latest version of Blackboard also contains several new features. Instructors will now be able to create timed assessments that will save and submit automatically when the test timer expires. Tests will also now auto-save every minute during the student attempt. Interactive Rubrics are also available now. When creating a rubric, instructors can assign weights to categories, allowing the same rubric to be used across multiple items with different possible points. Rubrics can be imported and exported for use across courses. Instructors can associate rubrics when creating gradable content items and can interact with any associated rubric for grading in a grid or list view, and Feedback can be typed for each criteria, as well as the entire assessment. When a rubric has been used for grading, a report is available to view the results of all content graded with that rubric. The Needs Grading feature has also been enhanced. Now, when an instructor chooses to make an interactive tool gradable, they will also have the option to choose how many interactions will place the item in needs grading status. A Discussion Board forum, for instance, might be set to only appear in Needs Grading status after a student has made three posts, rather than with each individual post.

Several Blackboard building blocks were installed this year to enhance the use of Blackboard. The Turning Technologies TurningPoint Blackboard building block was added based on this committee's recommendation to adopt the Turning Technologies clicker as the campus standard. This building block allows course roster downloads and grade uploads between Blackboard and the Turning Technologies Clicker software. The McGraw-Hill Connect and Create

Blackboard building block was also installed to enhance the interaction between Blackboard and McGraw-Hill content.

Another important decision made by this committee was the need for a Blackboard course archival and removal policy. To date, courses have been kept in Blackboard until an instructor asks to have the course removed. This has allowed the file system to grow continuously through the years. In an effort to free up space, the committee recommended that we keep a minimum of four years worth of course data and archive and remove any courses older than four years.

Last year, this committee reviewed the Blackboard Mobile Learn building block, which provides a nice interface to access Blackboard on a mobile device. The committee made the recommendation that the campus invest in this software. This year, the committee was pleased to see that the University has licensed Mobile Learn and that it is now available on any Apple, Android, or Blackberry device. Usage statistics show that 7,685 mobile devices have accessed Blackboard through a mobile device since the building block was installed in October 2011.

Clickers

Six years ago, 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 eInstruction for the use of PRS RF clickers. As part of this agreement, instructors could receive a free RF receiver and clicker to use in their classes. Over the past few years, instructors and FTDC support staff have become increasingly dissatisfied with the PRS product for a variety of reasons. Software updates were not reliable. The software contained too many bugs. No updates were provided for the Mac version of the software. New USB receivers were unreliable and had many failures, and the new sales rep had absolutely no knowledge of the PRS RF clickers.

Because eInstruction stopped production of the PRS RF clickers at the end of 2011, the University needed to select a new clicker to become the campus standard.

The FTDC staff gathered information from several of the major audience response system vendors and arranged for select instructors to pilot them during the Spring 2012 semester. After talking with the instructors who piloted the various clickers, the committee voted to adopt the Turning Technologies Response Card NXT as the new campus standard. Turning Technologies will

provide a free receiver and clicker to any instructor who chooses to use clickers in their class. They will also provide on-campus instructor training one time each semester.

Other

Based on the success of the previous year's Technology Enhancement Week, offered during 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 2012, twenty-seven sessions were offered, including Adobe Acrobat; Adobe Photoshop Basics; Advanced Web Design Using Dreamweaver; All About the iPad; Basic Web Design Using Dreamweaver; Blackboard Blogs, Wikis, and Journals; Connexions – Textbook 2.0; Creating and Publishing Enhanced Podcasts using GarageBand; Creating Blackboard Tests, Assessments and Surveys; Faculty Test Scanning; Imaging and Scanning Basics; Introduction and Overview of Wimba Classroom; Introduction to Blackboard; Introduction to Flash for Online Interactive Education; Introduction to iTunes U; Introduction to the Blackboard Grade Center; Introduction to Virtualization with VMWare; Keynote – An Alternative to PowerPoint for Mac Users; Outlook 2010; Security Awareness Training; Tips, Tricks, and Shortcuts for Mac Users; Tips, Tricks, and Shortcuts for Windows Users; Using Blackboard to Create SafeAssignments to Detect Plagiarism; Using Multimedia Classrooms on the UM Campus; and Windows 7. One hundred seventy-one instructors took advantage of these training sessions.

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