

William Paterson University
Faculty Senate Technology Council Meeting

Minutes

October 30th, 2020
Time: 11:00am – 12:00 pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

Committee members present: Gamin Bartle, Sonya Bierbower (Co-Chair), Megan Chesin, Tao Guo (Co-Chair, Minutes), Housen Maratouk, Pei-Lin Weng, Kelly Ruffel, Raymond Schwartz

Committee members absent: Matthew Finn

- Meeting starts at 11:00am
- Acceptance of Agenda at 11:02am
- Approval of minutes from October 9th meeting and will be saved to Blackboard at 11:05pm
- Welcome new member and quick self-introduction among members
- Discussion/Action Items
 - OER ad-hoc committee report
 - Tao shared the OER ad-hoc committee report provided by the faculty senate and summarized that the report had investigated the background and challenges of implementing open educational resources in classroom and research. Currently the department of English has been pioneering a program.
 - Megan and Sonya shared that the OER in their discipline is very hard to find. Most of them are good for entry level courses only. Housen pointed out the resources are more likely to be scattered. Another important feature of OER is that any expert in that field can contribute and develop a new version of that OER content.
 - The council agreed that the council's goal is to evangelize the idea. And the implementation of OER relies on the support in identifying resources mainly from the library and Center for Teaching with Technology. A collection of OER resources would be a starting point for faculty to supplement their textbook and eventually replace the more expensive book.
 - The council will put it as an actionable item and work with related university functions.
 - Open source resources presentation
 - Ray reported that there is a working group consisting of Ray, Tao and Gary on this initiative. They just met one hour ago and worked on the structure of the presentation. The presentation will be about utilizing open source material in teaching and research and an open source programming platform call Jupiter notebook. More presentations might be planned for various disciplines.

- Megan and Gamin recommended to collaborate with the working group of Digital Liberal Art Collaboratory from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Ray reported the planned presentation date and was reminded by some council members of furlough days in December.
- All council members agreed that the week of January 11th to 15th might be a good alternative.
- Updates on WP Online and digital fluency
 - Gamin reported that three programs have been launching this year enrolling about 500 students. More WP online programs will be starting as early as Summer 2021. Adult certificate programs are in the discussion now. The programs are developed by carousel. Students can start their programs every six weeks. Gamin also answered questions from Pei-Lin and Tao regarding the programs they are currently involved.
 - Regarding the digital fluency, Gamin reported that Will Power 101 has included a module in digital fluency and have enrolled more 300 students so far. The model is consisted of training in self-directly learning, technology and Linked-in learning. She has been involved in a grant proposal for creating a minor in data story telling.
 - Tao and Sonya suggested that more training in Microsoft Office Suite could be helpful. Many students use the Pages, Numbers provided by Apple, but these files are not compatible with the Blackboard grading system.
- Faculty senate requirements of 1,000 level course instructors
 - Tao raised some challenges he encountered whiling fulfilling the faculty senate's requirements of 1,000 level course instructors.
 - The current attendance tracking system only allows for student ordering by last name. Add a feature to order the students by first name would be very helpful as Zoom lists student name in this way.
 - It seems to be no system to track students' usage on tutor.com. It could be helpful if the instructors can track each students' usage and progress on their interaction with tutor.com
 - The council agreed that this is related to the charge and the feedback should be provided to faculty senate. Tao will work on a proposal to faculty senate and ask the senate to work with the related university functions.
- Brainstorm initiatives in response to other charges
 - Table it for future discussion
- New business
 - Tao raised the issue that some students used cellphone to take quiz or exam, issues could come up sometimes when questions will not show up properly. Housen recommended that students should try to use computer or laptop instead. The current version of Blackboard will not provide enough compatibility with cellphone.

- Gamin asked about ways to disseminate all of the council findings to the general faculty body. Pei-Lin suggested that council member could share events or decisions in their department meetings.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm