**William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils**

**Year-End Report**

**Academic Year 2021-2022**

1. **Council**: Technology

2. **Council Members** (in alphabetical order by last name):

   - Gamin Bartle
   - Sonya Bierbower
   - Housen Maratouk
   - Sumithra Raghavan
   - Kelly Ruffel
   - Ray Schwartz (*Chair*)
   - Chuanqian Zhang

3. **Council Charges and Summary of Activities**:

   Standing Charges:

   1. Identify the technological needs of faculty.
   2. Recommend technology policies and initiatives based on curricular and scholarship needs.
   3. Participate in the University's technological policy-making and planning.
   4. Liaise with technology administrators on policy, curricular, and scholarship issues.

   Charges for AY 2021-2022:

   1. Work with the Technology Across the Curriculum Committee and the Library to expand faculty use of OER materials, particularly in first year courses. Recommend to the administration what would accelerate such adoption among faculty.
   2. Explore possible collaboration with other councils and committees to identify and provide faculty with the resources for remote and in-person teaching and research.
   3. Continue to monitor progress on WP Online as it continues to add programs over time.
   4. Working with TAC, the Council will discuss ways IRT can assist faculty with creating quality undergraduate and graduate online programs based on Quality Matters principles.

   2021-2022 Summary of Activities:

*Work with the Technology Across the Curriculum Council and the Library to expand faculty use of OER materials, particularly in first year courses. Recommend to the administration what would accelerate such adoption among faculty.*

First the Council clarified with the Provost that this charge would include all zero-cost materials. These would include not just OER, but all Open Access materials.  In addition, materials purchased through the Library are available at zero-cost to all University affiliates.

Given that clarification, the Council discussed and reviewed the TAC recommendations and the Library's efforts.  The Library has set up online guides to Open Access and in particular OER materials on the Library's website (https://guides.wpunj.edu/oaoer).  Richard Kearney from the Library is the lead on the online guide project. In addition, the Library has added database records linking to those OA/OER materials in their discovery interface (https://primo.wpunj.edu).  These are 77 collections of over 266,000 OA/OER materials consisting of books, journals, proceedings, dissertations, government documents and so on. The remaining online materials that the Library either purchased or licensed totals over 524,000 items.  However licensed materials are ephemeral—materials are added and removed from licensed collections usually on a monthly basis.  The Library's purchased collections are perpetually available.   When searching the Library's discovery interface, the results indicate whether they are OA/OER or not.  However there is no indication as to whether the materials in the results list are purchased or licensed.   One would have to consult with a librarian to know that.  The Library looked into developing a report to indicate which materials are purchased or licensed.  However, they determined that such a report from the current library system in its current configuration is not possible at this time.  In lieu of such a report, Ray Schwartz recommended the approach put forth by Tony Joachim and Gamin Bartle in the TAC report for the Library to offer a syllabi review service for zero cost suggestions.  Tony Joachim created a form for syllabi submission.  It is waiting for approval from the Library Dean.

The Council talked about the report's emphasis on low cost versus zero cost.  The Council felt that a library syllabi review process would be a good option to explore.   Sonya Bierbower stated that for many Biology courses, one zero-cost text could not replace one textbook—two to three texts maybe needed.  And in some cases there are software exercises in the commercial textbooks that are not replicated in any other format.  The Council felt that rather the report's emphasis on equally either zero or low cost is problematic.  *The emphasis and goal should be on zero cost with exceptions for low cost when zero is not possible*.

Another recommendation that the Council supports is designating in the Course Catalog which courses are zero-cost.  Though courses with multiple sections can be problematic when only some are zero-cost—that could create unbalanced registration among the sections.  Also, department chairs should communicate with faculty and recommend that they use Library resources in searching for OER.  Chairs can convey this to faculty in Department meetings.

Another activity the Council completed was sponsoring, along with TAC and the Cheng Library the Faculty Panel on OER on November 3, 2021.

*Explore possible collaboration with other councils and committees to identify and provide faculty with the resources for remote and in-person teaching and research.*

Gamin Bartle reports that this is already happening.  She also reported that the Center for Teaching with Technology offers these resources and refreshed their workshop schedule for spring 2022.

Gamin Bartle shared that in TAC, they've been thinking of ways in which to promote the use of SPSS.

Ray Schwartz contacted David Nacin from Mathematics, who was an attendee from the Council's last Jupyter Notebook session, on doing a follow up session in the fall 2022.  He agreed and we will meet again in August to finalize more details.  The Jupyter Notebook, part of Project Jupyter, is an open source web application that allows you to create and share documents that contain live code, equations, visualizations and narrative text.

*Continue to monitor progress on WP Online as it continues to add programs over time.*

Since 2019, council member Gamin Bartle was named the WP Online University Project Manager, working with Academic Partnerships and campus stakeholders to create and implement designated online programs.  The council has been updated on the progress regarding the offices involved, new programs or courses included, course duration, platform used (i.e., Blackboard), creation of the WP Online marketing website, as well as how faculty will be trained on Quality Matters and online pedagogy.

Ray Schwartz asked if Gamin, or anyone else, is already reporting in Faculty Senate meetings on issues related to WP Online.  Gamin Bartle stated that the President and Provost occasionally give some information, but nothing detailed, and suggested that it's likely not in our council's purview to provide such reports.

*Work with TAC, the Council will discuss ways IRT can assist faculty with creating quality undergraduate and graduate online programs based on Quality Matters principles*.

Gamin Bartle gave an update regarding the Quality Assurance Certificate program, while Housen Maratouk informed the group about the Accessibility Certificate series.  The Quality Assurance Certificate is being offered by the IRT Center for Teaching with Technology.  There were eight participants in the January sessions.

5. **Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year**:

    1. Explore possible collaboration with other task forces, councils, and committees to identify and provide faculty with the resources for remote and in-person teaching and research, with the emphasis on open source and open educational resources
    2. Promote use of existing software and implementation of technology resources by faculty and students.
    3. Work with the Technology Across the Curriculum Committee and the Library to expand faculty use of zero-cost materials, particularly in first year courses. Recommend to the administration what would accelerate such adoption among faculty.

6. **Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year:**