



University Technology Committee | University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Thursday, November 19th, 2020 | 1pm to 2pm | Webex

Matt Aschenbrener	Matt Vick	Karen Brueggeman X
Max Servais	Elizabeth Watson X	Kris Curran
Paul Waelchli X	Bob Mertens	Robert Schramm
Trisha Barber	Patty Fragola X	Elena Pokot X
Mary Acuna X	Dane Seckar-Anderson X	Sara Deschner X
Kevin Potter	Joel Koszyczarek X	

Minutes

1. Review October 29th, 2020 meeting minutes (handout)

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

2. LTC Update (handout)

Elena Pokot went over the LTC update with the committee which included:

- Online Teaching Institute (formerly Online Blended Institute) for faculty/staff will offer a blended synchronous online workshop in Winterim (6 one-hour long workshops) and a fully asynchronous version in spring semester.
- Planned training series for Winterim: Using Canvas “pages” to move course design beyond using Canvas as a repository for pdfs and quizzes
- Big Questions
 - How can I do breakout rooms in Webex?
 - Webex is planning to integrate breakout rooms in late summer/early fall. Until then check out a few different workarounds that were identified by LTC staff: [Using Breakout Rooms in Your Course](#)
 - Can I access the LTC Media Studio?
 - The LTC Media Studio is now available at a reduced capacity. Please read about our [new hours and procedures](#).
 - How do I offer captions for videos?
 - We have a new Help Sheet, [Video Captioning for Accessibility](#), that offers information for on-demand (i.e., recorded) and live events for instruction and non-instructional purposes.

Elena also talked about piloting a new captioning and notation feature called Webex assistant. She asked if anyone would be interested to reach out to the LTC. Patty Fragola asked if the assistant feature would be available for non-academic staff as well. Elena said that she will confirm, but does not see a reason why it would not be, and asked Patty to contact the LTC.

Sara Deschner added that she had some students that had been struggling to understand certain instructors because of an accent or the low volume of their voice. They were able to use the Webex Assistant and had fantastic results. This tool really has helped with student's comprehension and she highly recommends it.

3. IT Security Updates

Elena gave a quick update on the Local Admin Rights Removal Project. At this time ICIT is nearly done with all non-instructional areas. Elena also mentioned that Mary Acuna has been working with the Faculty Senate to help collaborate efforts for this project when it comes to the Colleges. Elena noted that it may be a good idea to add a Faculty Senate member to the UTC. Eric Loepp was suggested, Dane Seckar-Anderson will follow up with him.

a) Local Admin Rights Removal Update – Focus on Instructional (Mary) (handout)

Mary Acuna gave the committee some additional details on the current status of the project. Surveys have gone out to all instructional staff at the Colleges. As these surveys come back, the exceptions will be noted. At this point in the project, there has been an 80% reduction of local admin rights access across campus. Mary wanted to thank everyone for their cooperation and told the committee that they expect to have all responses by the end of the semester and hope to finish this project by 2021.

4. Computing Environment Update (handout)

Joel Koszyczarek gave the committee an update regarding end-user technology, specifically the current computing environment.

Operating System Updates

Joel explained that the Office 2019 update is ready, and will be pushed out to campus soon. Support for Office 2016 ended in October of 2020. Right now, Joel is looking at December for the push and will be sending out a campus communication prior to that. Once a date is picked, end-users will have the option to upgrade on their own time through the Software Center. There will also be a later date for a forced install.

MacOS 11 Big Sur was officially released last week. This is the first major upgrade to the macOS environment in the last 20 years. Joel explained that they will need to look at compatibility with the current enterprise systems prior to making this available to the campus. Apple is also transitioning away from Intel and will begin using its own processors. Targeting December to support these new hardware devices.

Adobe Flash Player

Adobe Flash Player will officially be out of support on Dec 31, 2020. Adobe is taking a hard stance on this and making it clear to users to get off anything using Flash. ICIT will be communicating this change to campus soon. Joel added that they will be uninstalling Flash across all devices on campus. He explained that he has not run into any major issues in labs and classrooms. Joel finished by saying if there is any instructional content that is currently using Flash, please contact the LTC to help with the transition.

a. Computer Replacement Cycle

Elena gave a brief update to the group regarding some recent questions regarding IT requirements as it pertains to the Computer Replacement Cycle. As long as a campus device is supported, it can be used. In order for us to support the device, it must be able to run the current OS. Those that cannot support the current OS need to be updated. If a device is out of warranty, but still supports the current OS, we do not push it to be replaced.

Elena continued by talking about the plan in place for replacing computers for instructors. This plan was set in order to facilitate the 3-year upgrade cycle. However, some Colleges were using this money for other items instead of replacing old computers. The proposal going forward is to take care of instructors that have a computer that can no longer function. This will also be done for lab computers. Joel K added that another resource that exists is the repurpose pool of computers. When someone leaves the university, that computer goes into the repurpose stock. These devices will be used before buying a new one. An additional cost-savings option will be the addition of low-cost computers being added to the IT Catalog. Joel explained that he will be able to bring in cheaper models which will give more options to faculty and staff. The plan is to have these devices available in the coming weeks.

Patty F brought up the idea of cross-departmental computer trading/sharing. She wanted to know if it would be possible for departments to swap devices with others for instances of Mac vs PC. Joel said that he would allow this, and to just let me know and he would work with each department. Patty asked how would departments know what is available. Elena explained that ICIT has lists of computers that need to be replaced, as well as an inventory for each department. Joel asked to please contact him, and he can provide that info for specific departments. He also asked the committee going forward, to please contact ICIT when they have a computer available.

Paul Waelchli asked if the computer replacement process can also be applied to other devices such as printers. He wanted to know the current rotation status. Joel explained that all GA lab printers with the exception of the 2 in the Library are covered under a contract and are supported. He added that when the contract with RICOH is renewed, new devices are installed. This is currently a two-year cycle. Joel continued to say that it may make sense to take a look at another provider once the RICOH contract is up. HP services is a pay-per-print model whereas RICOH is a yearly flat-rate price. It could also make sense to transition to a more centralized printing model in order to save money. Sara Deschner and Elizabeth Watson both added that using a centralized model has really worked for their areas.

5. Campus 2030 Thought Experiment Follow Up

Will place in a Google Doc

Next Meeting?

Dec 10th