FTAC Meeting Minutes October 12th 2015

FTAC Grant for 2016

* Committee members will review last year’s grant description and provide recommended changes and updates at our next FTAC meeting.

An issue with Air Media software not working on Apple computers came up. Chris Olance said he would look at the issue. It may just be a software upgrade. It may also be that a weakness with the software is its incompatibility with Apple computers. He will examine the problem.

FTAC discussed updating the technology priority list for IT Governance.

* We will remove Degree Works from the list since it was funded and will be implemented within the next couple of academic years.
* CREDO will also be removed from the priority list. This teaching platform is specific to the library and does not impact the entire campus. Department specific technologies should remain with department funding priorities, rather than the campus wide technology priority list. The technology grant is a great opportunity for specific departments to request such technologies or software. The library would be encouraged to apply for this grant.
* Iclickers will stay on the priority list, but we will investigate with AITC alternatives to maintaining the iclicker systems. Currently, several companies offer online alternatives that require no hardware. Students can use their phones or purchase wireless iclickers. This appears to be the future trend as REEF polling since bought the iclicker system. Once we have investigated options, a series of workshops that teach faculty how to use these online systems will be useful.
* The event/room scheduling software will also remain on the priority list as our number one priority. This software will help faculty find computer labs for their students if they would like to move their classroom into a computer lab for a day. It may help faculty, students and community members reserve rooms for events, study sessions, or many other circumstances. It may also help scheduling and advertise events across campus. The FTAC chair, Stephanie Hilwig, will sit on a task force assigned with examining different options for this software and helping to determine the needs of the campus.
* The grant will also stay on our priority list. Most technology for faculty are very specific to departments and disciplines. This makes it difficult to serve the needs of faculty on a campus wide basis. The grant, however, gives departments the opportunity to develop and access technology specific to their departmental, research and student needs.

Remaining concerns

* One member wanted clarification on the limits of Turnitin use. Several years ago there were limits to how many students could use Turnitin based on our contract at the time. We now have an unlimited contract.
* An issue brought up was the access to a permanent teaching and testing computer lab that can accommodate up to 40 students. Our current teaching lab often has classes and professors cannot always use that lab for teaching and have a difficult time finding out when that lab is available. There are multiple teaching labs across campus. The room scheduling software might help faculty access computer labs for testing when needed.