

TLTR Regional Meeting
October 3, 2014
Chancellor's Conference Room

In attendance: Bethany Wilkes, Diana Collins, Mark Thompson, Gabriel Wechter, Colleen McKenna, Michael Ciri, Robin Gilcrist, Ann Spehar, Jill Hanson, Maureen O'Halloran, Marnie Chapman, Susie Feero, Kathi Baldwin, Kimberley Schulte, John Long

End of Year Report for Sitka Peer Review process

Kathi Baldwin reported on course peer review. More members have signed up, and there is a more even distribution of members across campuses.

E-mail Mary Purvis if you'd like to take the peer review course.

Blackboard behind the scenes course

Students will no longer have to self-enroll in the Blackboard Behind the Scenes course, which contains tutorials on using Blackboard. This way so they won't be confused by what enrollment means.

An upcoming redesign of the UAS front page that is used to log-in to Blackboard will mention the course in order to raise publicity.

Telephone system potential

Jason Amundson asked whether the UAS telephone system can be used to route calls made from personal cell phones.

The Cisco enterprise system has features that may be useful for forwarding and returning calls, and has been tested at UAF.

http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/collateral/unified-communications/unified-mobility/product_data_sheet0900aecd80410f2d.html

Mark Thompson will investigate further and report back to TLTR.

Update on toll bypass

UAS currently has a "toll bypass" when making calls to Sitka and Ketchikan (including off-campus numbers) and to UAA and UAF. Michael Ciri is trying to expand this to include off-campus numbers in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and locations of other branch campuses.

Standardization of software across MAU's

Discussed whether e-learning technology should be standardized across MAU's, and to what degree. Is it really important that we all use the same software? Or should we let programs go off and use their favorite software? What is balance between institutional efficiency and programmatic strategies?

Michael Ciri suggested that TLTR might consider making a statement about openness across institutions. Do services just serve local campuses? Or do students cross campus boundaries? Working with statewide to make tools across campuses.

Google Apps:

Google Apps was originally deployed just for Fairbanks. UA is working to connect Google Apps to Elmo for password. Making Google Apps work across the system is a high priority because it is robust. Everybody at UA is set-up for GoogleApps with an institutional account, but that doesn't prevent problems. Need to work through technical issues.

Blackboard:

UAS provided UAA and UAF technology so that students could sign onto Blackboard at different institutions with single log-in. The stated goal was that this would be the way that students access their courses, regardless of what campus they attended.

There was some original push-back related to (1) showing of classes at other institutions and (2) courses at UAA and UAF don't necessarily use blackboard. As a result, although the technology for seamless integration now exists and is installed at UAA and UAF, the modules are not turned on.

Web conferencing:

Is web conferencing considered part of the core software? Should it be standardized across campuses? What software?

Technology usage by people without UA credentials

Bethany Wilkes raised an issue that has occurred in the library, which is that other Departments may present workshops or continuing education opportunities that include members of the public or newly enrolled UAS students that do not yet have a UA account. Without a UA account (username and password) they are unable to login to the laptops that can be checked out from the library or the laptops that compose the Mobile Classrooms provided by the Classroom Support Desk.

UAS can provision accounts instantly. Anybody with affiliation with UA can access computers. If they enroll a day in advance, then they'll have access. The issue is complicated by the fact that certain equipment is funded by student technology fees, which is why they are only accessible to people with UA credentials.

UAS risk review

In December UAS is required to submit the top three institutional risks to the Board of Regents. The third risk will be the university's ability to serve distance students.

The report will include a description of risks, metrics for assessing the risk, and description of treatment and mitigation of risk.

Getting better partnerships between help desks at other institutions

UAS is in preliminary discussion with UAF and UAA to get better help desk partnerships and will be sending a formal request. The request will likely be approved by UAF.