

## **Academic Computing Committee 2018-2019 Annual Report**

### **Committee Recommendations:**

**1. The Academic Computing Committee (ACC) recommends that the university consider the needs of the humanities/social sciences as well as other academic units for additional staff tasked with supporting research computing.**

Background to request for staff to support research computing:

The needs of faculty in the humanities/social sciences for additional staff to support research computing was discussed by the ACC. Faculty have been constrained in the research computing tools available to them and the projects they are able to develop because there are not enough personnel to provide support for those initiatives. B. Kredell followed up by discussing concerns with library administration, as the original thought was that an additional data librarian would help. He learned that positions are being filled within UTS which may provide the additional research computing support needed. The ACC supports continued efforts to build the research infrastructure at the university to support research efforts of the humanities/social sciences as well as other academic units.

**2. The ACC recommends that the university funds a plagiarism detection solution that can be used for student plagiarism detection, as well as research and publications.**

Background to plagiarism detection software issue:

The ACC investigated needs across campus for plagiarism detection software, understanding that the Turnitin.com service was available in the past, but was not used enough to receive continued funding. As plagiarism continues to be a problem, faculty members need to:

- 1) Teach students about academic integrity and plagiarism
- 2) Check students' work for plagiarism against previous student work
- 3) Check their own work and their students' work against other scholarly work.

S. Moore and J. Paul met with the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) about plagiarism detection software on November 19, 2018. The TLC resolved to endorse the continued process of investigating university interest in using plagiarism detection tools and the value that they bring to our pedagogy.

T. Rowe received information from Virginia Tech about their 2018 implementation and use of both Turnitin and iThenticate, confirming their need for both products and for arrangements to protect intellectual property. Turnitin and iThenticate serve different purposes. Turnitin is designed for student plagiarism detection, while iThenticate is for faculty use for research and publications.

When considering what student plagiarism solution(s) to use, the ACC recommends that the following concerns be considered:

- 1) We want a solution that does both student plagiarism detection and can be used for research and publications.
- 2) The solution has a prepopulated database of papers to check against.
- 3) How does the software deal with drafts? Are subsequent drafts detected as plagiarism?
- 4) Is the author tied to the work as matches are detected?
- 5) Is there any loss of intellectual property rights with use of the software?

### **Committee Actions**

The Academic Computing Committee (ACC) considered computing needs of faculty and students on campus. Departmental input was encouraged, especially related to plagiarism detection software, Akindi ID numbers, and research storage needs. Technology needs in view of the university's research goal were considered at each meeting. Issues that were discussed include:

An updated VPN is available for faculty members and students with a related knowledge page.

The Campus Closure Policy #482 is in place so that Moodle remains open though campus closures except in extreme conditions. Faculty have the option to extend the due dates.

Progress is being made in terms of accessibility compliance which is mandatory. The university is moving toward 100% compliance, starting with new materials. A Digital Accessibility website is available.

Technology needs in view of the university's research goal were discussed with the understanding that technology should not be a barrier to research. Storage requests to University Technology Services (UTS) and related concerns surrounding storage shortages continue.

-High-performance clusters are available for research with computing/storage requirements.

-OSIRIS as used by University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Michigan State University is being considered.

-The arts likely need more storage, but also need to make videos accessible from multiple sites. Departments are considering signing on with vendors for hosting/streaming, but there are copyright concerns.

-Funding agencies are looking for collaborative projects.

Timing of software upgrades was discussed. Upgrades during teaching terms cannot be avoided, as schedules and breaks do not coincide.

Software replacement schedules and maintenance of faculty recordings were discussed. Notices are given by eLIS once plans are determined.

A general-purpose update was given that classrooms are being updated for digital video capability.

Oakland University badge security was discussed regarding concern that G#s display when ID badges are swiped. UTS investigated and determined that this is not a problem with university approved swipe machines.

G# requirements for exams in Akindi were discussed. Scanning with G#s sent via e-mail would require all faculty including part-time faculty and graduate assistants to encrypt devices and handle records appropriately. eLIS came up with a plan to alternatively use 6-digit randomly generated unique identifiers (Akindi ID numbers) available in Moodle instead of the G#s. Recommendations from the group included providing a link for faculty to access the Akindi ID numbers. Implementation of Akindi ID numbers will begin in the summer.

Password-less authentication was discussed. Security consultants are visiting March 19, 2019, with committee members attending to provide input.

Software license issues were discussed including a growing separation between licensing models for business and for higher education resulting in higher costs. Support for SPSS is changing, but SPSS will continue to be available for faculty and students. Qualtrics will also continue to be available but with price increases. Course packs to cover additional software license costs are a possibility.

The need for a persistent Wiki was discussed, and the need may be met with MoinMoin as used by UTS.

Course management systems were discussed, as inquiries about Canvas persist.

-Moodle is used world-wide.

-Moodle is free.

-Moodle has functionality to meet needs.

-Moodle will likely be used as long as it has the necessary functionality and not too many plug-ins.

Needs for guest internet access as with Eduroam was discussed. UTS is evaluating an aspect which should enable users who do not have Eduroam to join with plans to enable soon.

Need for masters' students receiving the grade of "P" to access university resources was discussed. Options include:

- 1) Having such students register and pay for continuation credits (as done by PhD students) so that the NetID is renewed for a year, or
- 2) Having the department sponsor such students for approximately \$100 per year.

Dr. K. Mathieson presented his ideas for a Web app community of practice for help with running open source software. The committee will discuss this further at future meetings.