

## Academic Computing Committee 2016-2017 Annual Report

### Committee Actions

The Academic Computing Committee evaluated computing needs on campus and available computing resources. The committee reviewed the following plans and policies:

- UTS strategic plan
- eLIS strategic plan
- eLIS Moodle policy
- Policy 870 (Software Regulations)

The committee identified faculty needs that are currently met, but that many faculty are unaware of the ways in which these needs are met. Committee members then disseminated this information to their respective academic units.

- Procedures available for faculty to borrow laptops for international travel
- TSCS classroom resources available to faculty
- Office 365 available free to students, faculty, and staff
- Tuf Francis, Shaun Moore, and Julia Paul worked as a sub-committee to identify and develop topics for a CETL workshop. The workshop would likely be in the fall of 2017, and include technology resources available to faculty and security issues pertinent to faculty. Topics will include protection of personally identifiable information (PII) and intellectual property (IP), data encryption resources, and appropriate locations for storage of sensitive data.

### Recommendations

The committee identified and discussed the following computing needs on campus

- Closed captioning on videos is currently available through DSS, although there is a 2-week turnaround time to have videos captioned. e-LIS is looking into captioning services that would provide captioning for all videos on campus. In addition to benefiting hearing impaired students, this would also benefit ESL students and students who learn more easily by studying a transcript rather than relying solely on auditory learning.
- Video capability in WebEx breakout session is currently lacking, and this capability would facilitate course discussions in WebEx.
- The university's VPN was updated this year. There is a potential need for a longer timeout period for users. The VPN is available for mobile devices, meeting a need for faculty travel. However, only web browser traffic is routed through the VPN. A VPN connection for all communication (including apps) would be good.
- There is a need for larger computing labs, provided by either the university or schools. For example, large engineering classes are asking students to bring their own laptops, which is difficult for some students.
- Access to the Michigan State computing cluster is coming soon. This will fill a pressing need for computing access for research across campus. Once access is in place, the availability of this resource will need to be communicated to faculty throughout the university.
- The committee also discussed software licensing on campus, including for Adobe Creative Cloud and Minitab. Campus-wide licensing decisions should consider both cost savings and the impact software availability would have on research and teaching.
- The committee recommends adding representation from TSCS to the committee. This will allow the committee to better understand and address computing technology in classrooms.