

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Instructional Resources Planning Tool (Teaching portal)

Proposal: The Educational Technologies Subcommittee proposes to provide the faculty (and/or their designee) with a single online location to plan, request and/or order any and all campus services related to teaching a registered course at UC Davis. This portal could be created as a SmartSite tool. (see proposal)

Action/recommendation: CCFIT recommends that a small group of IET, TRC and potential users review the proposal for a teaching portal. Potential users include faculty, academic unit staff, and graduate student instructors. The chair of the CCFIT Educational Technologies Subcommittee will convene this group and will report back to CCFIT in the fall.

Comments:

Tor Cross (Federation): I think that this is one of the most important tools that we can provide for our faculty. It will simplify ubiquitous tasks and streamline all instructional services.

Senior Advisors: This idea sounds promising. Hopefully faculty and relevant academic unit staff will be included in the development.

ASUCD: Though there is no direct benefit to the undergraduate population it is felt that this portal would facilitate in the learning process since Professors would be able to make the classroom a more interactive. (Importance rating – 6)

Graduate Student Association (GSA): Such a portal would help TA's as they communicate with each other, with the professors and with their students. It would also bring more graduate students into the fold of the TRC, which is a valuable, but (it seems) under-utilized resource for students wishing to improve their teaching.

Graduate Studies: This activity needs to include consideration of graduate students as teachers and to ensure that there is an option for them to access resources for teaching.

Educational Technology Teaching Assistants

Proposal: The Educational Technologies Subcommittee proposes to work with interested campus departments which fund a teaching assistant position to assist the department's faculty with instructional technology. These ETTA's (Educational Technology Teaching Assistants) would be guided at the departmental level by a faculty mentor. ETTAs would be trained and supported by staff from the TRC and IET and through peer coaching provisions similar to those developed for the ET Partners program. The program would serve faculty and departmental interests and provide new professional development opportunities. (see proposal).

Action/recommendation: CCFIT recommends that the chair of the Educational Technologies Subcommittee work with TRC and IET to contact departments to assess their interest and offer a pilot project if interest warrants. In addition to graduate students, departments might also consider SRAs and lab assistants. CCFIT requests a progress report in the fall.

Comments:

Tor Cross (Federation): This proposal needs to be moved forward to the next step. The campus resources are in place, we need to propose the service to the departments and deans to assess campus interest.

Senior Advisors: While this idea may work, another approach that would ensure better consistency and continuity (since TAs come and go) for lab courses would be to include SRAs and lab assistants who are involved in laboratory course offerings.

GSA: if these positions would increase funding available for graduate students, that would be most welcome, given recent hikes in tuition and fees. However, I do rather agree that staffing with graduate students may not ensure continuity.

Graduate Studies: While this program will certainly benefit faculty, we need to strengthen the benefits for graduate students. Graduate students must not become IT technicians. In addition, we need to carefully consider issues related to graduate student workload, compensation and collective bargaining.

Classroom Podcasting Systems

Proposal: The Educational Technologies Subcommittee proposes to implement a more userfriendly and comprehensive podcasting system in all the general assignment classrooms. To facilitate faculty use of podcasting, the procedure for distributing resulting MP3 audio files needs to be automated. The Registrar supports podcasting as a valuable extension of existing classroom technology and joins the members of the subcommittee in supporting this proposal (see proposal).

Action/recommendation: CCFIT supports the Educational Technologies Subcommittee's recommendation to establish a UC Davis Podcasting Work Group to explore the expansion of podcasting facilities campus-wide. The Work Group should consider issues of misuse of recordings, distribution copyright infractions or other potential problems. As suggested in the subcommittee's proposal, this Work Group should include faculty, the Registrar, campus counsel for copyright, and representatives from TRC and IET-Mediaworks. CCFIT recommends the workgroup be the joint responsibility of the Registrar's Office and IET.

Comments:

GSA: The most faculty that are podcasting, the better!

Mediaworks/Classroom Technology Services

Proposal: In the spring, the Educational Technologies Subcommittee sent a memo to IETMediaworks & Classroom Technology Services (CTS) Director Liz Gibson. The memo emphasized the need for Mediaworks/CTS to expand its evaluation of educational technologies.

Action/recommendation: As Director Gibson and Vice Provost Siegel finalize the blending of Mediaworks & Classroom Technology Services, CCFIT recommends a broad campus awareness campaign to ensure faculty are well aware of the unit's existence, mission, and services.

Comments:

ANR: In its reorganized form and with its current leadership, we believe that IET/Mediaworks/Classroom Technology Services is uniquely positioned to serve, leverage, and guide the rapid progress we must make adding value to converging educational technologies. The new Mediaworks/CTS has broad technology, media, and collaboration expertise and is uniquely positioned to balance innovation and production technologies. Lot of folks could have piloted Podcasting, but I doubt any other UCD organization could turn it from cool new toy into a production educational support service so smoothly. Mediaworks/CTS has enabled the rapid expansion of ANR use of Adobe Connect (Breeze) and we hope that the Adobe Connect suite can be retained. It's elegant design and integration have been key to ease of use and willing adoption by ANR staff and academics off-campus. Trials with Elluminate have not been as well received and strong preference for the Adobe suite has been expressed. We hope that the investment in the Adobe suite can continue and see it as a high priority.

Tor Cross (Federation): The Ed Tech subcommittee looks forward to playing a continued advisory role as IET negotiates the upcoming changes.

Senior Advisors: IET Mediaworks provides some good services, but they need to be publicized more to the faculty.