ACC Minutes
September 8 2017
10am in Bryan, rm 114
Submitted by Frances Clerk

Attended

1. Frances Clerk
2. Daniel Rice
3. David Remington
4. Gloria Thornton
5. Amanda Schipman
6. Nicholas Young
7. Dana Saunders
8. David Teachout
9. Maurice Tyler
10. Michael Gaines
11. Kristine Sunda
12. Deborah Lekan

Not in Attendance

1. Christopher Swann
2. Fatih Oguz
3. ?

Discussion

- Gloria Thornton informed committee that a new committee has been formed called: “Academic Technology Planning Committee”. A handout was given out explaining the charge of the new committee as well as the representatives from other committees that are on this new ATPC. Aprille is a representative for the ACC on the ATPC.
- Extensive discussion about Starfish integration with Canvas was held with several guests. The following guests attended our meeting: Academic Affairs/Enrollment Management – Dana Saunders (Students First Office), Kristine Sunda (Executive Director of Banner ENGAGE, and new chair of the Data Stewards Group), and Michael Gaines (URO Director of Records and Registration), along with Dave Teachout (UTLC Director), ITS Learning Management System (Canvas support) team representatives Nick Young (manager) and Amanda Schipman (Canvas lead application administrator). Discussion began with Gloria Thornton, former Data Stewards Group chair, providing background, including the role of the Data Stewards and Trustees in UNCG data-sharing decisions. Dana Saunders then spoke to why the Students First Office had requested Canvas Gradebook integration with Starfish. Challenges include that only about 40% of instructors currently participate in raising flags (warnings or kudos) in Starfish, and only 50% of students who fall on academic probation have had a flag raised in the prior semester. Overall, about 14k flags are raised per year, with 9-10k students getting a flag. Discussion took about 45 minutes and covered concerns, potential benefits, and
recommendations. Overall, the ACC recommends faculty involvement any student alert process based on Canvas Gradebook data and that any such process go to Faculty Senate for input prior to adoption. 2 The question of LMS data stewardship was also raised, but, from the limited discussion at the meeting, it was not clear if a separate LMS Data Steward role would be retained in the new data stewardship structure.

- There are data stewardship issues with this integration and Gloria is involved with that.
- Discussion ensued about Why only 40% of faculty participate.
  - Aprille believes faculty need training to use Starfish (Dana says some training already exists.)
  - Access was difficult.
  - Faculty say that students already Know they are not doing well as they can see the marks.
  - David Remington pointed out that it is very difficult to use with a large class. Currently you have to go back and forth between your Canvas Gradebook and Starfish. He suggested that if the integration actually happened it might make it much easier for faculty to use Starfish to integrate with Canvas and the need for intervention might be minimized.
  - Aprille pointed out that the way people use gradebook makes it difficult for someone “not in the know” to interpret the marks at any given time. Faculty might drop the lowest grade, or regrade a project after corrections. Weighted grades may be heavier weighted towards the end of the semester. Before raising a flag or communicating with students, the advisor should discuss the concern with faculty.
  - Currently it is a Time vs reward issue for faculty.
  - Aprille: Starfish is a great tool, but faculty should be included in the process and in the discussion leading up to integration.
- Dana pointed out that of the students flagged 80% took action to improve grade. The question of how this was measured was not addressed.
- Dave (via WebEx) agrees faculty need to be more involved in the loop.
- Faculty senate should be informed and involved in the process.
- Nick from ITS noted that Canvas is not the Official data. Some faculty don't actually use Canvas.
- Dave Remington: Sometimes all students will see in Canvas is “participation”. Faculty appear to be nervous that at any given moment the gradebook can be misleading because of how people administer their gradebooks. This information is not obvious to the advisors.
- Next Steps: Gloria will report back to the Senior ViceProvost about discussion about Starfish and Canvas. Gloria wants to know if faculty members on the ACC are onboard.
- Gloria suggests that process be written down so people do know exactly what happens with data.
- Nursing notes that it does use Starfish extensively.
- The greatest factor in student success is relationship between the student and the faculty person so faculty needs to be onboard. Faculty needs to see Starfish as a tool that will actually help them and their students (this theme repeated by various people throughout discussion about Starfish)
- Agreement that this discussion should be brought up with faculty senate.

Meeting Closed at 11:10
Agreed that all other agenda items would be put on agenda for next meeting.