

Faculty Senate Technology Council Year-End Report

1. **Council:** Technology
2. **Academic Year:** 2019 Fall – 2020 Spring
3. **Council Members** (in alphabetical order by last name):
 - Gamin Bartle
 - Sonya Bierbower
 - Megan Chesin
 - Matthew Finn
 - Tao Guo (*Co-Chair*)
 - Housen Maratouk
 - Raymond Schwartz
 - Pei-Lin Weng (*Co-Chair*)

Meeting Dates: 09/11/2019; 10/16/2019; 11/26/2019; 02/25/2020; 03/27/2020;
05/07/2020

4. **Council Charges and Summary of Council Activities:**

Technology Council Standing Charges: (per Senate by-law dated on 2/25/2020)

- Identify the technological needs of faculty.
- Recommend technology policies and initiatives based on curricular and scholarship needs.
- Participate in the University's technological policy-making and planning.
- Liaise with technology administrators on policy, curricular, and scholarship issues.

Technology Council Charges for Academic Year 2019-2020

- A. Continue collaboration with the Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression Council to understand and advocate for the software needs of faculty engaging in research, scholarship and creative expression.
- B. As the University works to create new online graduate programs with Academic Partnerships, support Instruction & Research Technology (IRT) in working with

faculty teaching existing undergraduate and graduate online programs and courses to maintain course quality, e.g., use Quality Matters standards.

- C. Promote awareness of the Digital Literacy Initiative.
- D. Promote use of existing software (e.g., Lynda.com/LinkedIn Learning) and implementation of open resources (e.g., Jupyter Project [<https://jupyter.org/>]) by faculty and students.

Summary of Council Activities:

- A. Continue collaboration with the Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression Council to understand and advocate for the software needs of faculty engaging in research, scholarship and creative expression.

Council discussion and activities:

The Research, Scholarship and Creative Expression Council did not have a charge to collaborate with our Council. We approached RSCE Council and found that the task they were initially planning to collaborate with our Council was not their priority this year. We will remove the charge and explore collaboration with other councils and committees for next year. For example, we will work with Technology Across the Curriculum (TAC) and discuss ways Instruction & Research Technology (IRT) can assist faculty with creating quality undergraduate and graduate online programs based on Quality Matters principles.

- B. As the University works to create new online graduate programs with Academic Partnerships, support Instruction & Research Technology (IRT) in working with faculty teaching existing undergraduate and graduate online programs and courses to maintain course quality, e.g., use Quality Matters standards..

Council discussion and activities:

In September, council member Gamin Bartle was named the WP Online University Project Manager, working with Academic Partnerships and campus stakeholders to create and implement designated online programs (four graduate and one undergraduate). The council has been updated on the progress regarding the offices involved, courses running in Summer 2020/Fall 2020, course duration, platform used (i.e., Blackboard), creation of WP Online website, as well as how faculty will be trained on Quality Matters and online pedagogy. In terms of teaching load, we learned that a 7-week course will count the same as a 16-week

course. In addition, the faculty will be creating content to be used in a Blackboard template to provide structure for the course shells.

Regarding Quality Matters, Academic Partnerships will be doing unofficial course reviews. Faculty will work with an AP instructional designer to create course maps and align materials with learning outcomes, then the CTT team will assist faculty as they put their courses into the Blackboard template. (For more details, please see meeting minutes).

C. Promote awareness of the Digital Literacy Initiative.

Council discussion and activities:

The Digital Literacy Initiative is a group of faculty, staff, and students who are dedicated to promoting digital literacy among WPU students. The group held two pop-ups in Fall 2019 to inform the WPU Community about Qualtrics and LinkedIn Learning. These two tools, which the University has site licenses for, can benefit faculty and students at WPU. LinkedIn Learning is the re-branding for Lynda.com and has thousands of courses in technology, business, and a lot of other areas. Qualtrics is the industry standard for surveys and reporting. It's user-friendly and intuitive. Both can be found in the Apps menu in WPconnect.

The committee members will continue to work on Digital Literacy, collaborating with Technology Across the Curriculum, the Digital Liberal Arts Collaboratory, and others. Council members are supportive of the ideas put forth by the Digital Literacy Initiative, and will continue to support it as appropriate.

D. Promote use of existing software (e.g., LinkedIn Learning, Qualtrics) and implementation of open source resources (e.g., Jupyter Project [<https://jupyter.org/>]) by faculty and students.

Council discussion and activities:

As mentioned above, there were two activities about the importance of self-directed learning and surveys in Fall 2019. They were held in high-traffic areas (University Hall lobby and University Commons). These events served to raise awareness of the university-wide licenses of LinkedIn Learning and Qualtrics among students and others who passed by. In addition, a Digital Skills Module was included in Will Power 102 in Spring 2020. A Digital/Data-Driven

Storytelling Minor in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is being proposed.

The Jupyter Notebook, part of Project Jupyter, is an open source web application that allows you to create and share documents that contain live code, equations, visualizations and narrative text. Ray Schwartz had planned for Spring 2020 to work with a faculty member to begin a pilot project. He will initiate the project during the summer.

5. Recommended Charges For The Next Academic Year:

We have following suggested charges for the next year:

- Explore possible collaboration with other councils and committees to identify and provide faculty with the resources for teaching and research.
- Continue to monitor progress on WP Online as it continues to add programs over time.
- Work with TAC, the Council will discuss ways IRT can assist faculty with creating quality undergraduate and graduate online programs based on Quality Matters principles.
- Continue to promote awareness of digital literacy.
- Promote use of existing software and implementation of open source resources by faculty and students.

