Learning and Research Technology Workgroup
Meeting Notes
Friday, January 11, 2019
Education, Building 02, Room 024 at 9:10 – 10am

Present: Sean Hurley, Chairperson, CAFES
         Patricia McQuaid, OCOB
         Andres Martinez for Gregory Scott, CSM
         Patrick O’Sullivan, CTLT
         Jennifer Klay, CSM
         Bruno Ribeiro for Colleen Twomey, CLA
         Scott Hazelwood, CENG
         Kathryn Hammer, ITS
         Jesse Vestermark, Kennedy Library

Absent: Jeff Nadel, CENG
        Catherine Hillman, CTLT
        Cesar Torres Bustamante, CAED
        Thomas Gutierrez, Physics Dept
        Peter Schlosser, CLA, Academic Senate

Next meeting: February 1, 2019 at Building 02, Room 024
              9:10 – 10am

I. Approval of Meeting Notes from December 2018
   Approved with the spelling correction on page 2 (McQuaid)

II. First Week of Winter Quarter – How is it going?
    PolyLearn was down early Monday. ITS addressed quickly. Discussion about users with similar user
    names unintentionally getting locked out, and security best practices around getting locked out and
    resetting passwords.

    Tuesday morning, there was an issue with the Portal. Discussion about the Portal having issues during
    high-volume times. The AWS project will resolve this issue. One work around is to go directly to
    PolyLearn rather than through the Portal.

III. Amazon Web Services Project Update
    Alison Robinson presented an update about the project. Reviewed the re-organization of ITS from
    technical functions to service-based in a Plan/Build/Run framework. The re-organization is underway
    and transition to the new framework is in effect come Jan. 31st.

    For the move to AWS, Alison reviewed ITS’ new approach to building out the new data center from an
    enterprise point of view rather than one application at a time. Shared that creating runbooks for
    services will improve how ITS provides services. Documentation for the runbooks and AWS efforts is
    available on the wiki. This design for the AWS data center, migration and advance uses a security by
    design approach. Shared a high-level view of the AWS timeline, touched on the various upcoming
    tasks.
Students and faculty have asked how PolyLearn is going to work in AWS. Question about PolyLearn and how to approach the Learning Management System (LMS) for the move to the cloud. Segue into conversation about LMS.

IV. Learning Management System
Conversation about Canvas; many CSU’s are using Canvas for their LMS. Other platforms are available for a new LMS in addition to Canvas. Patrick shared that CSU’s have shifted away from Moodle.

Moving to a new LMS will require a significant effort from faculty. Alison would like to emphasize improving the transition experience for faculty, provide opportunities for faculty to be involved.

The question is still “should we look at a new LMS?” Moving PolyLearn to AWS is a big-enough effort that it merits looking at a new LMS. Discussion around emphasizing advantages of moving to a new LMS, i.e. mobility and accessibility. Question about the cost for Moodle. Alison shared that true costs are hard to find in that hardware, storage, etc. are antiquated. Will look to new IT Governance to help facilitate the process for exploring a new LMS.

Next steps:
1. Determine which platform can Faculty use to make the ask for looking at a new LMS.
2. Need to make a case for looking at a new LMS. Questions about who presents the case? CTLT can help get faculty-support. Topics that surface in Learning and Research can be taken to the Information Technology Management Council.

V. Next Meeting: Friday, February 1, 2019