

Educational and Research Technologies Committee Annual Report, 2022 – 2023

Submitted by Helen Read, ERTC Chair

ERTC Charge: The ERTC shall have the responsibility of matters related to the development and implementation of educational and research technologies at the University that guide acquisition of information literacy by students and faculty. It shall review and recommend policies and procedures relating to the planning, introduction, and use of campus-wide technologies, including computers, communications, electronic data handling, and instructional media. The committee shall assume responsibility for informing the administration of educational and research priorities and needs related to information literacy and see that these are considered in all planning. It shall maintain close liaison with the Curricular Affairs Committee, the Financial and Physical Planning Committee, the Student Affairs Committee, and the Research, Scholarship, and Graduate Education Committee. Each of these committees shall appoint one of their elected members to serve as a voting member on the Educational and Research Technologies Committee. The committee shall maintain close liaison with appropriate administrative offices in its areas of responsibility and with the Facilities and Technologies Committee of the Board of Trustees.

ERTC Members: Steve Kostell (CALs), John Yin (CAS), Marc Law (CAS), Hung Do (GSB), Regina Toolin (CESS), Helen Read (CEMS), Jarlath O’Neill-Dunne (RSENr), Laura Haines (Libraries), Sara Pawlowski (LCOM), Stephen Brown (LCOM), Tim Tourville (CNHS).

Much of the ERTC’s work over the year is to serve as a standing focus group for ETS, CTL, the CIO, and other stakeholders involved in the use of technology across campus, and as a conduit for gathering information about technology initiatives that can be shared with the campus community. Items addressed by the ERTC during AY 2022 – 23 include the following.

1. ETS updates (Mike Austin, Geoff Duke).

- Mike Austin updated the committee about expansion and changes to DUO Multifactor Authentication and invited ERTC members to be early adopters before the changes were rolled out campus-wide.
- Geoff Duke updated ERTC on the upcoming transition from on-premises Microsoft Exchange (email and calendar) to Exchange Online. This will allow for added functionality that isn’t available with the current platform. You may experience a bit of disruption to your email when your account is migrated to the new system, and will likely need to take some action to get it working again (for example, if you use email on a mobile device, you will need to delete your account from your device and re-add it). When your account is migrated, your calendar will stop syncing with EAB Navigate until ETS switches the Navigate calendar sync for everybody (it cannot be set up to sync with two different systems at the same time). Several suggestions about timing (e.g., after final exams, over the summer, just before the fall semester) were discussed, taking into account that most faculty are not on contract over the summer. The committee suggested offering faculty a choice of a few different times to have their accounts migrated. More information from ETS will be forthcoming.

2. CIO Updates (Simeon Ananou).

- Personnel changes. The new Deputy CIO is Darcy Pientka. Joshua Phillips has been appointed Acting Information Security Officer, and a search for a permanent ISO is underway.
- ETS is working on classroom technology upgrades; faculty input is requested.
- The UVM Information Security Policy needs a review and rewrite. Helen Read has agreed to represent ERTC on the committee reviewing the policy.
- Improving the Computer Lifecycle at UVM
- Update on Banner Modernization
- Information Technology Strategic Engagement
- Update on MyUVM

3. Brightspace Transition (Wendy Berenback). Wendy gave several presentations throughout the year on the progress of the transition to Brightspace, including migration of courses from Blackboard, access to Blackboard archives, integration of other tools into Brightspace, feedback from the spring semester Brightspace pilot, how the trainings are going, and plans for the summer and into the fall. The ERTC asked many questions from a faculty perspective, and gave feedback on key items.

4. Software for Assessing Group Work (Courtney Giles and Priyantha Wijesinghe). Courtney and Priyantha are looking for help from the ERTC to identify a software tool for assessing group work. The two main considerations are understanding the scope of need at UVM, and finding a tool that works within the UVM tech review process. CIO Simeon Ananou suggested a small group including Courtney, Priyantha, and representatives from CT, ETS, TTL, Student Accessibility Services, Procurement, and ERTC to look into this further. This topic will come back to ERTC at a future meeting.

5. Software Purchasing Process (Natalie Guillette and Claire Burlingham). ERTC has been hearing complaints from faculty about the lengthy process involved in obtaining approval to purchase software, and invited Natalie and Claire to help the committee better understand the process. They are working on an improved website that will provide step by step guidance for submitting software for approval and answers to FAQs about the process. There are many complex rules that must be followed, and the best advice is to allow plenty of time for software approvals.

6. Akindi and Gradescope Software (Keith Burt and Danielle Fournier). Keith and Danielle came with a request that UVM invest in modern software to replace the use of scantron for multiple choice tests, and described how Akindi software can be used to scan and grade multiple choice papers using standard printer/scanners instead of a dedicated scantron reader. They also mentioned Gradescope as a possibility. ERTC Chair Helen Read knows several faculty in CEMS who are using Gradescope for exams that are not multiple choice (the software can scan papers and group similar answers from different students together for more efficient manual grading), and asked if Gradescope can also handle multiple choice exams the way that Keith and Danielle described for Akindi. They confirmed that yes, Gradescope would do what they need. Wendy Berenback then informed us all that Gradescope has been approved to be centrally funded beginning in the fall, and will be integrated into Brightspace. Problem solved!

7. Software for Retired Faculty (Beth Mintz and Dwight Matthews). Beth and Dwight came as representatives of the RFAO (Retired Faculty and Administrative Officers) to discuss the need for software access for emeriti faculty. Emeriti often continue to contribute research in affiliation with UVM, but they do not have access to software licensed by UVM. The RFAO has been trying to come to

some form of an agreement with the Provost's Office, but is frustrated by the lack of progress on this issue. Faculty Senate President Thomas Borchert and ERTC Chair Helen Read will follow up on this with the RFAO, and Chief Technology Officer Mike Austin has also offered to become involved.