

Educational and Research Technologies Committee Annual Report, 2024 – 2025

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: Mark Starrett (CALS), Amy Hughes Lansing (CAS), Meghan Cope (CAS), Regina Toolin (CESS), Helen Read (CEMS), Hung Do (GSB), Laura Haines (LIB), Delphine Quenet (LCOM), Sara Pawlowski (LCOM), Luben Dimov (RSENr), Lauren Knopp (SGA), Thomas Borchert (Faculty Senate President)

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 over the past year include the following.

1. ETS updates.

- The committee heard updates on the status of OneDrive migration (Zach Bardesco) and Intune migration (Mike Austin). Both of these migrations have since completed.
- Geoff Duke came to the ERTC to discuss deletion of old Microsoft Teams course teams. Since the Fall 2020 semester, ETS has been automatically creating a team for each course section. They need to begin deleting old course teams to free up space, and asked the ERTC for advice on the timing of the deletions and how to communicate to the faculty that these teams will be deleted. Course teams from Fall 2020 have now been deleted, and Spring/Summer 2021 teams will be deleted at the end of May. Announcements of upcoming course team deletions will continue to be shared widely, including in announcement cards at the top of the MyUVM portal. The announcements include a link to more information, including guides for how to preserve content from your old course teams before they are deleted.
- Mike Austin gave a presentation on file management options. The TL;DR:
 - OneDrive is for individuals, not departmental accounts.
 - SharePoint and Teams are for departmental files.
 - Departmental Shared folders (S: drive) aren't going away. These are useful for complex permissions or large collections of files.

- There are other options available for research storage depending on needs.
- ETS has tools to help move files to the right place.
- Think about data sensitivity/security.

For more information and advice about which storage solution to use, see the Knowledge Base article: <https://www.uvm.edu/it/kb/article/uvm-storage-solutions/>

2. Classroom Technology. Andrew Horvat updated the committee on technology refreshes of classroom equipment that took place last summer. This included upgrading 12 general purpose classrooms to 4K projection capabilities and adding USB-C connectivity.

3. Brightspace Update. The Brightspace team (Wendy Verrei, Justin Henry, Justin Banker, and Susan Skalka) updated the committee on features they are or will be working on, including role-based announcements, improvements for the non-credit audience, and enhancing integration with Banner.

4. MyUVM Portal. UVM Registrar Veronika Carter updated the committee on some of the new functionalities of MyUVM. There are several Help articles that can be found under the Help feature in MyUVM or by searching the UVM Knowledge Base for MyUVM.

5. Artificial Intelligence. Thomas Borchert led several discussions throughout the year regarding issues surrounding the use of AI on campus. The overall goal is open-ended, and these discussions will likely continue next year.

6. UVM Campus WiFi (Mike Austin, Jacob Leopold, Darcy Pientka, Randy Spooner). ETS was fully aware of WiFi difficulties on campus at the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year, and has continued to work to resolve the issues. The problems were due to an increase in the number of devices connecting to the WiFi along with an older wireless design. ETS has added directional antennas and radios to known trouble spots including Votey, Kalkin, Fleming, Aiken, and Lafayette and made other improvements to the network. Faculty and students are encouraged to submit a ticket to helpline@uvm.edu any time they are having issues with the WiFi. (Note from the ERTC chair: the WiFi situation has improved significantly since that discussion took place.)

7. Student Engagement Tool Wendy Verrei and Michele Smolik visited twice to talk about the review process and upcoming RFP for a Student Engagement Tool (Yellowdig and its competitors). Two members of the ERTC agreed to serve on an advisory committee in the spring 2025 semester.

8. NVivo. ERTC member Megahn Cope has been working with the office of the CIO to get licenses for the collaboration cloud extension of NVivo. Meghan has been working on this for quite some time with the support of the ERTC, and the licensing was finally approved. They have 150 subscriptions, which will be managed by the Libraries.

9. CIO Update. UVM's new CIO, Kellie Campbell, met the ERTC on her fifth day at UVM. The ERTC looks forward to working with Kellie.