

Educational and Research Technologies Committee of the Faculty Senate

Annual Report, 2025 – 2065

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 (Christopher Kojzar for Spring 2026) (CAS), Regina Toolin (CESS), Helen Read (CEMS), Hung Do (GSB), Graham Sheriff (LIB), Delphine Quenet (LCOM), Deepak Gupta (LCOM), Luben Dimov (RSENr), Abigail McGowan (Faculty Senate President), Lily Onorato (SGA), Jeremy Elliott (GSS).

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. ERTC members are frequently asked to serve as faculty representatives on various ad hoc or standing committees whose work relates to technology. Items addressed by the ERTC over the past year include the following.

1. ETS updates. (Mike Austin)

- **Windows 10 went end-of-life in October.** For security reasons, computers still running Windows 10 can no longer connect to the UVM network. There are a handful of known computers still running Windows 10 but these are disconnected from the network. Of the managed machines, 98% were remediated before the deadline.

- **The AI Task Force** has seven working groups. For more information visit their website:

<https://www.uvm.edu/ai>

- **Qualitative Research Tools.** UVM has purchased 100 user licenses for Dedoose.

- **Automatic forwarding of UVM email to non-UVM email addresses is not permitted.** Anyone who is still doing this was notified earlier in the Spring 2026 semester that they must disable automatic forwarders. Anyone who did not comply would receive additional notices, and if they do not disable the

forwarders on their own, they will eventually be disabled by ETS. After updating the ERTC on this process, ETS consulted with the ERTC chair about the timing of these notifications and actions by ETS for faculty who are largely on nine-month contracts and might not check email regularly over the summer. You can still forward individual messages to non-UVM email addresses, but you cannot automatically forward all of your email.

- **WiFi Upgrades.** ETS has been upgrading WiFi across campus, and there is still more to be done. There have been major updates in Morrill, Innovation, Aiken, Rowell, Howe, and Votey. There have also been some improvements in Marsh Life Sciences. ETS purchased equipment for 11 more buildings. They are working to find more funding for the next phase that would include another 20 buildings.

- **Security Training.** There will be mandatory information security training for all faculty and staff beginning Spring 2026. (Most of you should have already completed this.)

- **Multifactor Authentication.** ETS is working to move people away from using text messages or phone calls for multifactor authentication. The preferred method is to use the Duo Mobile app. It is also possible to get a YubiKey (a small device that can be used for MFA without a smartphone). If you are using text messages or phone calls for MFA, you are encouraged to switch to one of these more secure methods. For more information see <https://www.uvm.edu/it/kb/article/duo-multi-factor-authentication>

- **IT Governance.** Mike Austin and Darcy Pientka gave a presentation on IT governance. We expect to hear more details about this over the next year or more.

2. UVM Website Governance. Tatjana Salcedo gave a presentation on website governance. The sprawling UVM website is a bit of a wild west, and it's important to have standards for accessibility, use of UVM branding, etc., that apply to all sites hosted on uvm.edu. ERTC chair Helen Read agreed to serve on the Web Governance Task Force. The Task Force is developing general web governance policies. Once policies are in place, there will be a Web Governance Committee responsible for implementation on an ongoing basis.

3. Brightspace Update. The Brightspace team (Wendy Verrei, Michele Smolik and Justin Henry) updated the committee on features they are or will be working on. Current projects that are actively being worked on include non-credit initiatives; course lifecycle; increased adoption and use; and Brightspace data warehouse / analysis.

4. Registrar Updates.

- **Automated Waitlisting.** UVM Registrar Veronika Carter updated the ERTC on the automated waitlist pilot. A number of Departments around campus are participating in a pilot of automated waitlisting for Fall 2026 course registration. If a section is full, students can register for the waitlist. Waitlist priority can be set to first come first served, or priority by class (seniors over juniors etc. down the line), and it is possible to manually adjust a student's position on the waitlist. When a seat opens up, the student at the top of the waitlist receives an automated email notifying them of the opening. The student then has 24 hours in which to register for the section. If they do not register within the 24-hour window, the student is automatically removed from the waitlist and the next student is notified of the open seat.

ERTC chair Helen Read manages the schedule of courses for Math and is participating in the pilot. Helen and Veronika both report that the pilot is going great. The Registrar's Office plans to enable waitlisting for all Departments and courses beginning with registration for Spring 2027.

- **Banner 9.** UVM will soon be migrating from Banner 8 to Banner 9. The Registrar will attend the ERTC May meeting with more details.

5. Accessible Course Materials. Audrey Homan from the UVM Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) gave a presentation on accessibility for digital course materials. In 2024, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was updated to require that all public entities must comply with WCAG 2.1 AA-level guidelines for accessibility. Examples of AA-level requirements include human edited captions for videos; transcripts for all audio; no images of text; color contrast of text or graphics, charts, and graphs against a background must 3:1 or higher. OAS provides accessibility services for course materials, including captioning, audio description, and ASL interpretation. They collaborate with CTL for training on accessible course materials and related Brightspace tools.

For more information contact OAS: access@uvm.edu or CTL: ctl@uvm.edu.

6. Course Material Accessibility. Wendy Verrei came to the ERTC with information about YuJa Panorama, an accessibility tool that can integrate with Brightspace and has some advantages over Ally, the accessibility tool that is currently used at UVM. She asked for volunteers from the ERTC to try it out and give feedback to the AOS/EAS team. The ERTC chair and another ERTC member agreed to participate in the testing. ERTC will ask Wendy for an update on whether UVM will adopt YuJa Panorama in place of Ally.

7. CIO Updates.

- **Project Leap.** CIO, Kellie Campbell, met with the ERTC throughout the year, and gave regular updates about Project LEAP. For more information about Project LEAP, see:

<https://www.uvm.edu/finance/catamountleap>

- **New Director of Program Management.** Kellie introduced the new Director of Program Management, Warick Pond, to ERTC. Warick returned at a subsequent ERTC meeting with a Project Leap update.

- **New Director of Client Services.** Kellie introduced the new Director of Client Services, Joe Pawlaczyk, to ERTC. Joe gave a presentation on two major initiatives related to printing services on campus and computer replacement.