Educational and Research Technologies Committee Annual Report, 2021 – 2022

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), Luben Dimov (RSENR), Lyman Ross (Libraries), Tim Tourville (CNHS), Maddie Henson (SGA)

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. Major initiatives addressed by the ERTC during AY 2021 – 22 include the following.

1. ETS updates (Mike Austin). **Research computing -** The VACC will be considered as the default research computing environment. UVM's VMWare environment will be considered in cases where the VACC doesn't meet the unique needs of a particular researcher. In exceptional cases where neither the VACC nor VMWare can meet the needs of a particular researcher, consideration will be given to the implementation of standalone research computing hardware. UVM is now providing 5TB of free networked storage for every faculty member. **Academic Software project -** Virtual Desktop Infrastructure can be used for remote access to academic software from any device. The AppsAnywhere Portal (software.uvm.edu) aims to have all UVM academic software available from one place; software can be restricted to specific users/groups/colleges if needed. **Future updates –** Enhancements to Lived Identity (Name, Pronoun) for all affiliates coming in 2022.

2. Learning Management System (LMS) Updates. Alex Messinger and Wendy Berenback updated the ERTC on the progress of the LMS RFP throughout the year, and will continue to keep the ERTC in the loop on implementation of the new LMS once the contract for the new LMS has been signed.

3. CIO Updates (Simeon Ananou). CIO Simeon Ananou updated the ERTC on the progress on the move toward Information Technology Shared Services. There is currently a new laptop replacement policy in the works, but the proposal is currently on hold. For now, it is under the discretion of Departments/Colleges if they have the funding to replace a laptop, and how often laptops are replaced.

ERTC would like to be involved in the development of the new policy, and the CIO will keep ERTC informed.

4. Catamount Core Curriculum. J. Dickinson gave a presentation on the Digital Literacy requirement, part of the Catamount Core gen ed requirements beginning in Fall 2023.

5. Center for Teaching and Learning Updates (Wendy Berenback, Holly Buckland Parker). iClicker has been selected as the supported student response system across campus. UVM has a 3-year license for iClicker through August 2024. The iClicker app is free to students and instructors.

5. Classroom Technology (Andrew Horvat). Andrew's team is trying to understand what faculty classroom technology faculty need, and what virtual learning will look like after the pandemic. ERTC offered some ideas, and Thomas Borchert will work with Andrew to see if a campus wide survey would be helpful.

6. Perusall (Jen Garrett-Ostermiller, CTL). Perusall is a web based social annotation tool that integrates with Blackboard. Instructors (and students) can upload PDFs and other content. If a textbook is to be used within Perusall, it needs to be purchased within Perusall itself (rather than directly from the publisher). There are some considerations around compliance with the Education Opportunity Act regarding textbook choice, and equity for students using different forms of payment for course materials (financial aid, VA benefits, Athletics, etc.) The Director of the UVM Bookstore has been invited to the May meeting of the ERTC to continue discussion of this topic.