

Academic Quality Committee
Meeting Minutes November 22, 2024
9:30 AM-noon

Present: Paige Crump (chair), Mary Christian (recorder), Upendra Adhikari, Xiaoyan (Shannon) Hu, Nancy Guyse, Tamatha Lambert, Rod McRae, Valerie Mercer, Heather Ness-Maddox, Karen Ochoa, Liz Riley, Sabrina Wengier.

Absent: Tracie Provost, Loretta Clayton, Adam Craig, Tammy Haislip, Alex Koohang, Randy Steinmann

Visitors: Andy Lenard

- I. Agenda:
 - a. Remove USG dashboard training under New Business
 - b. Revised agenda approved.
 - c. The USG dashboard training has been postponed to a later date. The committee is encouraged to look at the dashboard on their own.

- II. Vote for program that houses survey data.
 - a. Three options: Watermark, Anthology, Blue.
 - b. No one votes to keep Blue. We will continue to use Blue for Spring semester and then transition to new software for Summer 2025.
 - c. Watermark and Anthology both cost under \$25,000. Watermark is willing to waive integration fee if we make decision quickly.
 - d. Both Watermark and Anthology have the required technological features.
 - e. Andy Lenard reports: Both Watermark and Anthology gave good customer service, with short response times. Overall, Watermark seemed more professional in their communication and presentation than Anthology.
 - f. Both programs will allow data analysis that we cannot currently do with Blue. (e.g., find response rates for first-time freshmen or courses taught by adjuncts).
 - g. Watermark offers more robust (and complicated) data features, and is more expensive. Do we need these data features?
 - h. Watermark is slightly under \$25k, but the inflation increase will bring it over that limit, which may lengthen the contract negotiations. Anthology costs \$15k, but we'd also have to purchase an additional tool for outside surveys. With Watermark, we could do Course Experience Survey and also outside surveys.
 - i. Andy Lenard reports: "Anthology's reporting feature is weaker. Watermark is a better product. If you can afford it, go with it."
 - j. Vote: Watermark—7 votes; Anthology—3; AQC recommends Watermark.

- III. Online Standards Draft Document
 - a. Send responses to Rod McRae by November 27.
 - b. Not much discussion or argument in Senate about these standards, but concerns were raised.
 - c. Question about grading turnaround time: in writing classes, 5-7 days of turnaround time is not feasible. Individual departments should set standards for their

departments' classes, make turnaround time expectations the same for online and F2F classes.

- d. Soft launch for online standards in Spring semester; hard launch in Fall semester.
- e. There will be additional opportunities for comment and feedback as these standards are implemented next spring.
- f. For every expectation on the online standards list, there is training and support available through CETL.
- g. Is this a crackdown? It's an effort to hold accountable instructors who try to "teach" online courses without being responsive to students' questions and communications. It's also a response to the sudden shift to online teaching during pandemic—some teachers had to shift to online teaching during pandemic, but didn't have much training or interest in online teaching. So some not-best-practice teaching methods have become widespread.
- h. How will this be enforced? Chair and dean will decide how to implement these standards. If faculty disagree with standards, they should discuss with chair.
- i. ADA and DOE are becoming more strict in enforcing accessibility guidelines.
- j. New mandates and policies are coming down from USG (e.g. requiring specific materials for history and political science classes).

IV. Survey E-mails edit update

- a. Paige Crump, Mary Christian, and Heather Ness-Maddox are trying to clean up and streamline language in e-mail. Will share updated email when it is ready.

V. Chair elect—if you feel led to chair committee next year, let Paige know by beginning of next year. We need to report chair-elect by beginning of February.

VI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Submitted by:

Dr. Mary Christian on 11/22/2024