

ATAC (Academic Technology Advisory Committee)

Annual Report 2021-22

Please include a summary of meetings held, initiatives worked on, actions taken, and accomplishments that your Committee has achieved over the past academic year.

Committee Members: Pam Christman, Dave Toms, Karen Rubino, Henk Sonder, Bin Yu, Scott Badger, Deborah Siegel, Nancy Blasdell, Karen Capraro, Lisa Bain, Kemal Saatcioglu, Justin Feeney, Chris Marco, Alema Karim, Michaela Wattendorf, Megan Riley, Kieran Ayton (Chair).

Meetings: ATAC met 6 times during the 2021-22 academic year on 9/24/21, 11/19/21, 12/17/21, 1/21/22, 3/18/22, and 4/29/22. We used Zoom meetings with screen sharing.

Initiatives ATAC has worked on:

Selecting the next Learning Management System (LMS) for the College

This was the major focus of ATAC. An LMS Subcommittee was formed with representatives from every school, our IT depts, and Disability Services. ATAC gave presentations to the Council about this initiative on 12/10/21 and 3/4/22. In April 2022, Surveys were sent to faculty and students to identify the LMS features which would be most useful in our next LMS.

We had an excellent survey response rate:

1. Students - 781 responses (about 15%) of student body
2. Faculty - 256 responses from faculty (full time faculty 65% and 35% adjunct)
3. The LMS Subcommittee will work on data analysis between now and June.
4. The next step will be to develop an RFP of LMS requirements which will be sent to potential vendors.

This will be finalized in Fall 2022 by the LMS Subcommittee. A complete timeline is [available here](#).

PeopleSoft Suggestions to Improve Student Retention and Enrollment

ATAC worked on this charge from Council: *"How can PeopleSoft better support faculty in communicating with and advising students, in order to improve overall student and faculty satisfaction and student retention?"* We surveyed faculty in our departments and collected feedback on the major systems used to track students' academic careers such as Peoplesoft and Starfish and disconnects with the Course Catalog and Academic Advising Report. We shared our findings with the Automation Working Group.

DVD Copying for Blackboard Courses

ATAC had a discussion about the increased number of requests by faculty since COVID to have physical copies of DVDs digitized for upload into Kaltura and Blackboard Courses for online learning. The Committee surveyed several nearby schools, including CCRI, URI, and Bentley for their policies. It was determined that any time you change the format of a video from physical to digital and upload it to a web content system, you are in copyright violation. ATAC is working on a policy to be presented to Council on how to handle future requests for DVDs to be digitized for online courses.

Blackboard Base Navigation Upgrade

ATAC discussed a necessary minor navigation upgrade to our current Blackboard system which will be taking place in June to the initial login page for faculty. Scott Badger gave a [brief demo](#) of what the change will look like. It will be mobile friendly and feature an activity stream page. Actual Blackboard courses designed by faculty will not be affected.

An additional discussion item which has come up is the request to Council that we have a member of ATAC from Disability Services to weigh in on accessibility concerns with academic technology.