Faculty Advisory Committee on Technology (FACT)

Agenda
Tuesday, December 1, 2020
11:00 am-12:15 pm
Csulb.zoom.us/j/5629854509

1. Call to Order – 11:04 am

    S. Ahmed, H. Ban, J. Dawson, N. DeBellis**,** C. Du**,** L. Farmer, M. Finney, J. Foster, C. Fouratt, S. Landa, C. Lee, S. Li-Hang, D. LuPresto, M. Mayo, H. Ramachandran, X. Wu

2. Agenda is approved

3. November 2020 minutes are approved with one name change (J. Foster listed twice)

4. Old Business
    4.1. Update to ATS BeachBoard support.
        4.1.1.   S. Ahmed confirmed that ATS will not turn on automatic activation for all courses in Spring 2021. Should be be ready by Fall 2021 and ATS will advertise the service prior to implementing.
        4.1.2.   S. Ahmed indicated an D2L outage last night that lasted until 5:00 am. All services are restored.

5. New Business
    5.1. ATS updates (i.e. BeachBoard to Peoplesoft final grades import pilot project).
        5.1.1.   S. Ahmed indicated that faculty will be able to import grades from BeachBoard directly into Peoplesoft (Faculty Center).
        5.1.2.   D. LuPresto added that the grade-entering process will be simplified, especially for faculty with multiple classes and hundreds of students. Grades must be entered in BeachBoard properly and faculty will have to select the correct grade type (either final calculated or final adjusted grade). However, merged (i.e. cross-listed) courses will not be able to use the feature yet. ATS is currently piloting with CLE and COB. Campus-wide rollout is targeted for late Spring 2021 or Fall 2021. Instructions will be found on the following page.

    5.2. CARES (CARES 3 professional development opportunities for faculty/staff/students).
        5.2.1.   Faculty - S. Ahmed stated that faculty trainings will focus on those who did not participate in summer professional development. Training will be incentivized with a stipend and include a combination of on-demand videos and live training sessions. This will happen in early spring 2021.
        5.2.2.   Students – S. Ahmed stated that ATS is partnering with Learning Center and ASI to offer training for students in spring 2021. A stipend will be provided ($150). The focus will be technical and soft skills training to be successful in online or hyflex environments. Faculty should encourage students to attend. L. Farmer mentioned that students can also enroll in ETEC450, Introduction to Hybrid and Online Teaching and Learning class, taught by M. Mayo and offered in Winter 2021.
        5.2.3.   Staff – S. Ahmed mentioned that staff-specific trainings will be held in spring 2021, although staff are welcome to attend other trainings as well.

5.3. Summer PD reports
    5.3.1.   Discussed below under 5.6.

5.4. Discussion on optimizing student experience during the pandemic, especially online, including information from the Unconference.
    5.4.1.   Discussed below under 5.6.

5.5. International aspects of instruction.
    5.5.1.   H. Ban commented that international students traveling outside the U.S. to visit family may find it difficult to attend classes. L. Farmer suggested that faculty may need to accommodate students by adjusting assignments or deadlines.

5.6. Student feedback on remote instruction (e.g. Asgari et al. 2020 and ASI survey).
    5.6.1.   Several issues were discussed during the unconference that overlap with issues raised in the surveys. These include connectivity problems, Zoom fatigue and stress/burnout. L. Farmer asked the committee for feedback on individual experiences and progress from the summer. Comments from the committee are listed below.
    5.6.2.   C. Fouratt mentioned that CLE did an open forum for faculty. CLE faculty felt they did a much better job than in the summer and that PD was useful.
    5.6.3.   S. Landa informally polls students at the start of class. It was alarming to hear many students responding with "I'm hanging in there". Anything that can be done to humanize the process will help. Also, finding a way to get student voices back to faculty may be useful. To this end, COB did a student survey. Preliminary survey results indicate that first-year students may have a tougher time since they are not familiar with technology. On the other hand, working students were much more comfortable in an online environment.
    5.6.4.   S. Ahmed mentioned that ATS consulted with ASI on student perceptions of remote learning and issues such as technology, time management and Zoom fatigue came up frequently. Students were particularly stressed about juggling multiple assignments. This is why student training will also include soft skills surrounding AMI. S. Li-Hang suggested that reaching out to officers of student organizations such as student life development may be useful.
    5.6.5.   H. Ramachandran commented that librarians have started conversations about student stress. The Faculty Center provided good advice such as accessing the CARES website. It's apparent that students want to talk to someone, so any interaction helps.
    5.6.6.   H. Ban noticed that first-generation students are more likely to "give up" in remotely instructed classes. Even with giving more time for assignments, students seem to get F's rather than withdraw from the course.
    5.6.7.   M. Finney emphasized that there are still some faculty who don't seem to grasp the need to be flexible with students. The Faculty Center is trying to help faculty devise alternative modes of assessments and instruction to be more accommodating.
    5.6.8.   L. Farmer summarized the discussion by encouraging the committee to share survey results from their College if available. Also, being as interactive as possible during synchronous learning was encouraged.

7. Other

Future meetings (FACT meets the first Tuesday of the month, from 11:00-12:15)

- 2/2/2021
- 3/2/2021
- 4/6/2021
- 5/4/2021