

University of Alaska Southeast

Teaching, Learning & Technology Roundtable (TLTR)

Minutes – October 15, 2020

In attendance:

Jonas Lamb (co-chair), John Ingman Jr. (co-chair), Paul Bahna, Cody Bennet, Susie Feero, Virgil Fredenberg, Robin Gilcrist, Kaia Henrickson, Kimberly Matsuura, Katarzyna Polanska, Paulette Schirmer (note-taker)

Call to order

Welcome of new co-chairs and determination of Paulette Schirmer as note taker for meetings. Meetings are to be recorded for reference by all members.

Paul had requested that we add a couple of items to this agenda: were to add some ways in which we can increase our collaboration with the local TLTR and local campuses, I think that it needs to be framed in a clear way. A second item that Paul would like added since we are mostly working from home due to COVID-19 if we could provide some token physical support to the faculty of the three campuses – basic small technology items that show that we support them and bring a positive spirit. Something along a care package was termed for this.

Agenda was approved to move forward.

Review and approval of the meeting notes from 9/17/2020 a clarification was requested by Cody on bullet item #4, where it says UAA made a change, it is actually UA. The minutes were accepted with the changes that Cody noted.

Cody requested a future topic of discussion to go back to the revision of the mission and purpose of this group, which had been placed under CELT and should be the group, not a CELT topic. So that item was moved. This could also work with the discussion on the collaboration with local TLTR items.

Local TLTR collaboration discussion:

Susie noted on the Sitka campus on the history. Each campus has a different way of doing it per campus depending on the local TLTR committee. What has happened with Sitka is that we would report to the local group and if they wanted something brought forward to the regional group than that would generate the conversations. It was informal, but we were reporting to the local TLTR groups. The Sitka campus is probably the most active of the three campuses.

Paul wants to see if we can be more supportive and potentially motivative toward the local TLTR. Perhaps providing outlines as to how this could be fruitful between the two groups.

Kimberly noted on Ketchikan haven't met in while due to technology fees being used differently in the budget. . We used to meet more often when the technology fees were

University of Alaska Southeast

Teaching, Learning & Technology Roundtable (TLTR)

Minutes – October 15, 2020

used to update the classrooms, we met more often and worked closely with the technology department.. There is another attempt to get it started again.

Cody noted that the same basic thing is happening in Juneau. The chair is not particularly active and there is not a big lift happening right now. A meeting typically will happen if a faculty says “hey can I have this in a classroom” and they will talk about it. Since most people are working off campus and there are not a lot of activities going on at campus right now the push is more regional in nature. It is the nature of a pandemic.

John noted with a lack of a budget with TLTR the whole “why do we meet” situation is being created. In Sitka we have been fairly active because we have a budget and we can see what technology in the classroom is needed.

Kimberly noted that the local campus TLTR groups are supposed to meet regularly throughout the semester, but as we noted it really isn't happening. Sitka has always been more active.

Jonas noted that there have been a lot of staffing and faculty cuts and it may seem duplicative in some regards as there may not be enough bodies to serve on all these committees. If the local instructors are getting the needs met through other means, than there may not be as big a need.

Susie noted that as the various campuses have lost the budget, than there has been less of an ability to control those needs. The local campuses seem to focus on one specific need while the regional would focus on the policies in place for supporting teaching, learning and technology. When things are happening on the local campus, and they see something that needs to happen on the regional then the information needs to go back and forth. The regional really has focused on the

Virgil noted that a lot of the training things that have been needed have been handled by Kaia's group at CELT and kept the training ahead of the curve, so the information has been addressed before they became an issue.

Cody noted that TLTR should also include a student perspective and we really haven't had that. We have not had a student representative in the past. With what happens at the local there is an overlap of things that happen at the regional level. For example, several years ago there was a grant to put Smart classrooms in the Sitka and Ketchikan, but now that they have aged, we are finding that we do not have the expertise in house nor really the funding. So, we need to look at situations from the vantage of where the direction from 5-10 years from now.

John noted that he thinks that it may be good if we could have a representative from the local TLTR groups come to our meetings so that we know what type of things are going on. A good example of getting involved was when VoiceThread was being explored, it wasn't really any more of an expense to implement regionally.

University of Alaska Southeast

Teaching, Learning & Technology Roundtable (TLTR)

Minutes – October 15, 2020

Paul wanted to see if we could recommend the local groups to meet two or three times a semester with some topics that we give them. Also to have them notify us if there is something that we are not meeting.

Kim noted that we have 1 hour meeting, 1 meeting per month, so if we have all of these speakers than we would need to have either longer or more meetings. We have focused on one item for the bulk of the time.

Jonas asked that we designate some action items in each of the meetings. That there was some items that needed action outside. So that we can keep on track with any work.

Kaia noted that this discussion on working with the local groups may be a good inclusion on the discussion on our future mission of TLTR.

We skipped the discussion on the remote care package for another meeting.

Report from the Zoom recommendations.

Susie noted that the subcommittee met and ended the draft stage of the recommendation from Regional TLTR and it is now in the shared drive for recommendation. **Susie needed to make it editable for everyone** and will send out to the group. **Comments to be completed by all by the end of the weekend.**

Kaia recommended that we complete the recommendation prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting so that we have this for them since they only have a couple more meetings this semester.

A point of order was made, since we voted Jonas and John into the positions of co-chairs, then they do not need to be confirmed by faculty senate or the Provost. The confirmation letters were going to come from the faculty senate president and the Provost has already responded.

Susie noted that the other institution that had the Zoom recordings housed within the campus instead of with the instructors. John noted that this is software that we do not have access to.

Cody IT Update

The Blackboard annotate tool default setting potentially resolved via workarounds (a lot of clicking) Blackboard said that it does involve a lot of clicking around. The faculty member found a Window's add on piece of software that created a script to do the clicking so the issue has been put to bed for the moment. The annotate tool is specifically associated with the assessment area of Blackboard.

The Canvas LMS pilot notes were forward from Maren's Provost report. She is seeking volunteers to assist with if they want their classes to be in the pilot of Canvas. A concern

University of Alaska Southeast

Teaching, Learning & Technology Roundtable (TLTR)

Minutes – October 15, 2020

that Cody noted for faculty is that there is not much support for questions on Canvas or who students will call for support for them. There are a few technical questions that need to be answered, for example where the information will be housed after the pilot, how things like the early alerts and rating tools will integrate with it. Cody wants people to be aware before they go diving into it that there may be some concerns.

Robin noted she had signed up twice now but have not received anything back. So I do not know what is going on.

John will follow up on the pilot program and get back to Robin.

Regarding Steelcase Active Learning Grant. Probably something that would need to be discussed at another meeting. It is something that had been brought up in the last year. There are some on the Juneau campus that are active learning set up. There is some research on the effectiveness of the active learning classrooms. Some of the problems are the long-term funding of the improvements. Cody noted that this was completed in room 108. Technologically it is a nightmare but it has comfortable furniture. This is a different grant than one that Susie had noted.

Would it even be used in the current environment? Are we going to be teaching enough classes in person for this to be applicable? Could it work in a hybrid location?

Kaia - Celt Update:

Continuing to offer programming a week. There are emails going out. Every other week there is a Faculty Connect meeting. Kaia has also been attending the accessibility UAE meeting. She has asked Carrie to get in touch with her to see about co-offerings there.

Still searching for an instructional designer.

Cody – IT Update:

Canvas Pilot – noted earlier discussion

Blackboard is moving to the Cloud via a Software As a Service (SAS) process that Blackboard will house. This removes us from being tied to a Fairbanks server. This is going to be over the winter break for a full down time of 5 days. We will be required to move to the most current version of Blackboard Learn, there will be new features and new bugs, but the deployment of new fixes would be faster with SAS.

“Google Hangouts” (chat feature in Gmail), is moving to “Google Chat” on 11/23. The most notable change is that if people had a hangout with multiple people, this is considered a room in Google chat. So the terminology and functionality is changing.

Cody will be sending emails out.

Third party integrations to add stuff to things. For examples adding to google sheets or Zoom integration with screen-castomatic. The third party add ons are a new contract, new terms and agreement, what types of interactions. While it may be super easy to

University of Alaska Southeast

Teaching, Learning & Technology Roundtable (TLTR)

Minutes – October 15, 2020

add it, from an institutional perspective it is a lot more complicated. We have had a discussion of this to have the requests come to TLTR, we would discuss, and then hand off to OIT to give us feedback on the concerns or “ok to go” comments. More of a subjective review from OIT not a stamp of approval. OIT produced a form that was very entailed.

We are getting a lot of push from vendors, for example accessibility plug-ins at UAA. There has been a big push from vendors that they really need to add a tool.