

# Technology Council



Minutes – March 12, 2013

Present: Corsetto, Florenthal, Harris (Chair), Miller, Nobler, Northington-Purdie, Wagner

1. Minutes of the 2/11/2013 meeting of the FSTC were accepted
2. Wagner agreed to take minutes
3. Members discussed their constituencies' concerns regarding WPUNJ offering fully online programs of study:
  - a. Florenthal said that her department discussed overall student readiness for online courses and the potential for only allowing higher-performing students to take classes online, as these classes require more attention, motivation, and organization to achieve success. Council members discussed whether having a pretest, questionnaire, mini-course/familiarization or metacognitive exercise put in place for people before they enroll in online classes to assess their ability to succeed. Northington-Purdie said that it would be useful to construct a rubric that would produce a measurement or value that would indicate the student's readiness to take online courses. Wagner suggested that this could be put in place for transfer students as a part of their transfer orientation process.
  - b. Florenthal said that her colleagues voiced concern over student integrity in online classes, that it was difficult to assure that the registered student was the one taking the test. Harris said that student papers are submitted to turnitin.com to verify their originality and that other tools for proctoring exams should be explored.
  - c. Wagner said that librarians are concerned that students feel the need to print massively and that work needs to be done to help students move beyond this practice. Wagner also discussed web-scale discovery – a library tool that provides a single search mechanism for a combined search of all library resources. He said that this will assist all online programs by providing a more meaningful and productive library resource search and help curb students' use of Google.
  - d. Nobler said that her faculty need clarification on how to get training for online teaching and about compensation for creating online courses. Northington-Purdie said that she was told by the AFT union that 3 credits are paid for new online course creation and 1 credit is paid for when it is taught the first time.
  - e. Nobler said that Art Department faculty are also concerned about issues of quality control and the protection of proprietary content in online courses.
  - f. Nobler said that her colleagues have concluded that art and music studio classes do not lend themselves to being taught online. She said that the topic of online ethics needs to be emphasized.
  - g. Florenthal suggested that products like McGraw-Hill's LearnSmart increase the productivity of online learning by providing an iterative question-and-answer

process that leads the student through the material, circling back if a concept is not fully understood.

- h. Harris will produce a concise list of concerns based on this and previous discussions.
- i. The Council's next meeting is Monday, April 29, 3:30 PM at Valley Road 4018.

Respectfully submitted: K. Wagner