

William Paterson University Faculty Senate Councils
Year-End Report

Academic Year 2020-2021

1. **Council:** Technology

2. **Council Members** (in alphabetical order by last name):

- Gamin Bartle
- Sonya Bierbower (*Co-Chair*)
- Megan Chesin
- Matthew Finn
- Tao Guo (*Co-Chair*)
- Housen Maratouk
- Raymond Schwartz
- Kelly Ruffel
- Pei-Lin Weng

3. **Council Charges and Summary of Activities:**

Standing Charges:

1. Identify the technological needs of faculty.
2. Recommend technology policies and initiatives based on curricular and scholarship needs.
3. Participate in the University's technological policy-making and planning.
4. Liaise with technology administrators on policy, curricular, and scholarship issues.

Priority Charges for AY 2020-2021:

1. Explore possible collaboration with other councils and committees to identify and provide faculty with the resources for remote and in-person teaching and research.
2. Continue to monitor progress on WP Online as it continues to add programs over time.
3. Work with TAC, the Council will discuss ways IRT can assist faculty with creating quality undergraduate and graduate online programs based on Quality Matters principles.
4. Continue to promote awareness of digital literacy.
5. Promote use of existing software and implementation of open-source resources by faculty and students. Work with OER ad-hoc committee/task force to implement university-wide usage of and transition to OER for courses.

2020-2021 Summary of Activities:

- Standing charge: Identify the technological needs of faculty.

Council discussion and activities:

The Faculty Senate passed three resolutions designed to support the success of the new freshmen in 1,000 level courses, including a requirement of faculty to take and report class attendance. While the university provided technology and resources to support 1,000 Level Course Instructors, the technology council has gathered some challenges from these instructors. A proposal was presented to the faculty senate on May 6th and then forwarded to the administration.

- Priority charge #1: Explore possible collaboration with other councils and committees to identify and provide faculty with the resources for remote and in-person teaching and research.

Council discussion and activities:

The council has acted on a report on OER from the Ad-Hoc committee. The council has worked with the Center for Teaching Excellence and the provost when promoting the Jupyter Notebook presentation.

- Priority charge #2: Continue to monitor progress on WP Online as it continues to add programs over time.

Council discussion and activities:

In 2019, council member Gamin Bartle was named the WP Online University Project Manager, working with Academic Partnerships and campus stakeholders to create and implement designated online programs (four graduate and one undergraduate). The council has been updated on the progress regarding the offices involved, new programs or courses included, course duration, platform used (i.e., Blackboard), creation of WP Online website, as well as how faculty will be trained on Quality Matters and online pedagogy. There will four graduate WP Online programs by summer of 2021. Eight undergraduate WP Online programs are starting in the fall of 2022.

- Priority charge #3: Work with TAC, the Council will discuss ways IRT can assist faculty with creating quality undergraduate and graduate online programs based on Quality Matters principles.

Council discussion and activities:

Academic Partnerships will continue to do unofficial course reviews. Faculty will work with an AP instructional designer to create course maps and align materials with learning outcomes, then the CTT team will assist faculty as they put their courses into the Blackboard template.

The council has been updated that the Provost's Office has started actively supporting and promoting Quality Matters. They have asked IRT to provide workshops and support for a new Quality Assurance Certificate (QAC) from the Center for Teaching with Technology. They would like all faculty planning on or already teaching online to earn this certificate. All three CTT instructional designers are QM certified to teach workshops as well as to do peer reviews of courses to make sure they meet the essential criteria. One workshop has been offered in December 2020 and one person has earned the certificate so far. IRT is planning more workshops in the future.

- Priority charge #4: Continue to promote awareness of digital fluency.

Council discussion and activities:

The digital fluency initiative is a group of faculty, staff, and students who are dedicated to promoting digital literacy among WPU students. The group held two pop-ups in Fall 2019 to inform the WPU Community about Qualtrics and LinkedIn Learning. These two tools, which the University has site licenses for, can benefit faculty and students at WPU. LinkedIn Learning is the re-branding for Lynda.com and has thousands of courses in technology, business, and a lot of other areas. Qualtrics is the industry standard for surveys and reporting. It's user-friendly and intuitive. Both can be found in the Apps menu in WP Connect.

There was a digital literacy module available for Will Power 101 students in Fall 2020 to choose as part of the course and over 350 students chose to complete it. The committee members will continue to work on Digital Fluency, collaborating with other councils and committees. Council members are supportive of the ideas put forth by the Digital Literacy Initiative and will continue to support it as appropriate.

- Priority charge #5: Promote use of existing software and implementation of open-source resources by faculty and students. Work with OER ad-hoc committee/task force to implement university-wide usage of and transition to OER for courses.

Council discussion and activities:

The Jupyter Notebook, part of Project Jupyter, is an open-source web application that allows you to create and share documents that contain live code, equations, visualizations, and narrative text.

Two council members (Raymond Schwartz and Tao Guo) offered an Jupyter Notebook presentation in February 2021. The presentation provided a quick walk-through of the Jupyter Notebook platform and provide examples of how faculty and staff can incorporate Jupyter Notebook into your teaching and research. The presentation also covered where to locate open-source educational material that work with Jupyter Notebook. 28 faculty and staff members attended the event. A libguide page is available

that including all the resources related to the Jupyter Notebook. The presentation recording is also made available on the same libguide page.

Libguide URL: <https://guides.wpunj.edu/jupyter>

5. Recommended Charges for the Next Academic Year:

1. Explore possible collaboration with other task forces, councils, and committees to identify and provide faculty with the resources for remote and in-person teaching and research, with the emphasis on open source and open educational resources
2. Serve as two-way communication channel between IRT and the faculty related to WP Online and Quality Matters Certification
3. Promote use of existing software and implementation of technology resources by faculty and students.

6. Please provide suggestions for how the council can be better utilized in the next year: