



College Council

2014-2015 Technology Committee Final Report

Committee Members:

Prof Joe Bisz

Prof Frank Crocco

Mr William Guttenplan

Prof Revital Kaiser

Mr. Thomas Lew

Mr Oshane Messam

Prof Joyce Moorman

Mr Angel Panora

Observer: VP Joseph Spadaro

Committee Accomplishments:

The 2014-2015 academic year has been a year of continued changes at Borough of Manhattan Community college. The College Council Technology Committee has reviewed, discussed and recorded the changing technological landscape of the college. Below please find a record of recommendations and discussion items.

General:

The college has created and filled the position of Vice President for Technology. Mr. Joseph Spadaro, VP for Technology, has joined the college on September 3, 2014. The 3 areas which report to the VP for Technology are College Computer Center, Office of Instructional Technology and Media Center.

The problem reporting number for labs and TEC rooms is x8122.

The college has completed upgrading from MS Office 2010 to Office 2013.

Increased Macintosh support was requested. As a result several technicians have attended or are scheduled to attend classes during the summer break.

Required password updates have been extended from 45 days to 180 days alleviating mid-semester problems and reducing congestion at the helpdesk.

All instructor workstations in the computer labs and TEC rooms had both Skype and Turning Point clicker software installed beginning in the fall 2014 semester.

Kingston clickers and training were made available for loan at the media center.

Review Institutional Research Technology Survey data. See attachments 1&2
Review Technologically Enhanced Classroom survey questions.

The college has begun replacing instructor stations with all in one touchscreen computers in labs and Technologically Enhanced Classrooms with completion expected during the summer of 2015.

The college has received a donation of a Makerbot 3d printer which is being used by the Music and Art department for course development.

Blackboard usage:

Fall 2014 = 3461 total courses
fully online = 57
online = 9
hybrid = 37
web enhanced courses = 1367

Spring 2015 = 3242 total courses
fully online = 57
online = 10
hybrid = 53
web enhanced courses = 1482

Coding of classes to reflect the 6 modes of instruction have begun in Summer 2014. See attachment 3.

Fiterman Hall:

Upgraded 2 iMac labs used by the Music and Art department.

Installed Makerbot 3d printer.

Open Access Computer Labs:

Duplex printing in all computer labs via add on duplexing units. Replacement printers will have duplexing built in. The page limit per printout has been raised to 14 pages from 8 pages. Students have the ability override duplex printing to single sided printing.

Computer Center:

Replacement of wireless access points with 802.11ac units has begun providing faster connection speeds over one gigabit for mobile devices and wireless workstations.

Computer Center has completed moving it's backroom equipment operation to the 6th floor at Chambers Street.

CUNYfirst Review

As the technology committee has been charged by the council in October to review options regarding Cunyfirst usage by the college

That the Technology Committee investigate how CunyFirst can be altered or replaced to meet the needs of the College and its faculty and students in mission-critical applications by the February College Council meeting.

Upon consultation with both the registrar's office and Cunyfirst liaison we have found that as CunyFirst stores and maintains the official records for the university, the college does not have the ability to opt out of its usage.

CUNYfirst modules include but are not limited to:

Admissions

Human Resources

Online bill payment

Payroll

Personnel

Procurement

Purchasing

Registration

Schedule of classes

Student records

Travel reimbursements

In order to improve the adoption of Cunyfirst some committee members have suggested possible solutions for improving both training and access to CunyFirst. They include:

Training by appointment - provide just in time training at department meetings. Some faculty have indicated that training sessions are scheduled at inconvenient times. Perhaps a 10 minute focused training during department meetings would be both beneficial and convenient.

Liaison group - reactivate the CunyFirst liaison group which was initially created for the initial transition period to CunyFirst to provide information and assistance at the department level.

Joint meeting with Student Life committee 11/5/14:

Student email discussion:

1. Timing for provisioning of email accounts cannot be changed as students need to complete the registration process before being assigned an email account.
2. Instructions for accessing email on smartphones
http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/computing/upload/mobile_email_brochure.pdf
3. Provide information and assistance for item 2.
4. Staffed helpdesk tables were set up during registration and club hours during the early weeks of upcoming spring semester.

Goals for Next Year's Committee:

1. Improve electronic room scheduling process.
2. Better dissemination of instructional room type and locations for department planning purposes.
3. Provide better dissemination of information regarding open computer lab location and schedules.
4. Implement changes to the website to permit one to search for services in a more efficient manner.