UNM Academic Technology

Academic Technology Coordination at UNM

Responsibility for academic technology is split across several UNM entities including Academic Affairs (Provost), Central IT Services, New Media and Extended Learning, the Center for Teaching Excellence, the Center for Advanced Research Computing, two Faculty Senate committees, and IT departments/staff within multiple colleges and departments. The position of *Academic Technology Liaison* was created to improve coordination and communication among those entities and to better inject faculty perspectives into IT planning and projects. The position is jointly funded by Academic Affairs and Central IT Services and is currently occupied by Stephen Burd.

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas concerning academic technology please contact Stephen Burd to discuss them – **UNM needs your input is needed to improve present and future academic technology services**.

Current Academic Technology Projects

Turnitin

- Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism and writing assignment feedback tool/service intended primarily for classroom use.
- Turnitin can be accessed in two ways:
    - As a stand-alone web service
    - As an embedded service within UNM Learn (it's a specific assignment type).
- For information and to register for an account visit turnitin.unm.edu
- UNM acquired a license ($100K) through August, 2015 half paid by health sciences and half by the Vice President for Research.
- **Departments or colleges will be charged $100 per faculty user per year until the $50K main campus cost is recovered**.

iThenticate

- iThenticate is the research-oriented counterpart to Turnitin – intended primarily for use by faculty, graduate students, and staff
- iThenticate is widely used as a plagiarism checker by conference and journal editors and by granting agencies such as the NSF. **Faculty should check their papers and grant proposals with iThenticate to see what editors and grant reviewers will see.**
- UNM has a site license for iThenticate paid for by the Vice President for Research through August, 2015.
- **There is no charge for use by any UNM faculty/staff member or graduate student**.
- For information and to register for an account visit ithenticate.unm.edu

IDEA Replacement

- IDEA is the currently-used system for gathering end-of-semester student feedback in instructors and courses.
- The Provost initiated a faculty-led project to evaluate IDEA and recommend a future course of action
    - AY 2013 - Committee evaluated IDEA and recommended replacement – goals include improved ease-of-use, improved formative feedback, more flexible survey content, efficient use of online and mobile technologies, simpler administration, and improved data accessibility for merit/promotion/tenure reviews, institutional analytics, and programmatic review
    - AY 2014 - RFP was issued in the fall and responses are currently being evaluated
    - AY 2015 – Probable small pilot in fall followed by full rollout in spring or fall 2015
- Faculty volunteers will be needed to help evaluate possible replacement systems –April – August, 2014. **Contact Stephen Burd if you want a more direct say in what replaces IDEA!**

UNM Cyberinfrastructure Day

- The title is a bit misleading!

- This year's event is focused on data sources and networks in support of research in a variety of disciplines. Events include case studies on data-driven research in the social and natural sciences, hands-on tutorials, an evening reception with a showcase for UNM student research, and keynote speakers

- Register and view the full agenda at http://cyberday.unm.edu

Learning Management System (UNM Learn)

- UNM migration from WebCT to Blackboard Learn is now complete
- Feedback thus far shows continued weak faculty adoption
- No formal evaluation or replacement project has begun but it's currently under discussion
- We need faculty input to drive decisions concerning whether an evaluation is needed, how it should be performed, and whether a replacement system will be pursued
- Your thoughts, ideas, gripes, suggestions … are welcome – contact Stephen Burd

Future Projects and Improvements

- **Your input is critical – contact Stephen Burd to discuss your ideas on how UNM can better support instruction and research with technology and related services.**