Agenda for Tuesday Sept 10, 2024 (1:30-3:00 pm via Zoom)

Attending: JD, AH, PdS, SS, CP, GC, MD, NH, CI, SZ, JK, MFM, JD, SG.

Agenda and Minutes

* Introductions
* Recap from last year’s chair:
* “In Fall 2023, LETTS has taken up three topic areas for discussion: 1) AI use in teaching and learning, 2) Canvas structure and uses, and 3) Data ethics, transparency and research access. With respect to the first topic, we have discussed and attended training offered by TIPS related to AI in teaching and learning and learned about the use of AI tools in Zoom (specifically Otter AI, which is being used by the Office of Disability Services. The university's contract with Zoom does not allow for Zoom to use their AI tools to harvest our data, but users can enable other apps (like Otter AI) that do use AI. To our knowledge, the Office of Disability Services use of this tool did not have to be approved by OIT. In our discussions, we were not overly concerned about the use of this particular tool, but we remain curious. We have also discussed a possible default structure for Canvas courses as a scaffold for those new to using an LMS in general, or Canvas specifically. We offered advice to TIPS on what this could look like. We also fielded one request from VC Farias about using the announcement feature in Canvas to prompt students to respond to the Pulse survey. Collectively, we decided that this was not an appropriate use of Canvas (which is for course announcements and content, not university announcements). We communicated this decision to VC Farias and he agreed not to pursue the topic. Our most substantive work in the fall was a discussion about data ethics, transparency and access to researchers. Specifically, we discussed researcher access to registrar and Canvas data. We wrestled with questions about data ownership, personally identifiable information protection, and researcher needs. Ultimately, we composed an advice statement "CU Denver LMS Data Governance and Data Access" addressed to Sasha Breger, Provost Nakuma, AVC Katie Linder, AVC Matthew McCarville, and AVC Beth Myers.”
* Announcements
* LETTS Secretary: Amy unless someone volunteers
* Accessibility Steering Committee: volunteer if interested
* FA DisComm: seeking a liaison between them and LETTS
* Storm Gloor
* Brainfuse (Neecee from LRC – guest) 1:45-2pm
* New tutoring software, study aids, flashcard, etc.; 24/7 virtual platform
* It can also integrate with LRC peer tutors
* Currently instructors can opt-in to add it to their Canvas shell; or students can access from LRC
* Q: Can Brainfuse be in the default settings for Canvas?
* Last year we decided on a default; new courses will have this default going forward.
* There are many requests to add things, more emerge each year.
* LETTS: we will discuss ongoing process to add things to the Canvas default
* Consider: are we ok with 3rd party apps on the default menu?
* Perusall (Crystal)
* Social annotation software
* Hypothesis is funded by/for School of Ed; we didn’t get this funded for the whole university.
* Currently 12 faculty in 15 courses/3 semesters/500 students are using the product
* Options
* Institutional license
* Charge the students
* Publisher pays
* Dept pays
* Crystal will look into enterprise-level options and we’ll talk more next time
* Course modalities update/discussion (Jason)
* Current definitions include “remote” that was a pandemic thing
* It includes in-person student fees, though the courses are not on-campus at all
* Hybrid was not clearly defined; this raises issues for F1, sponsored, and military students with in-person requirements
* Sponsored students need 50%+ in-person contact hours
* F1 need any % of required in-person (e.g. could be one exam or one discussion)
* 23-24 LETTS created a list of recommendations
* Anschutz has particular fees with Hybrid; that slowed things down
* Deadline for new recommendations: Jan 15 2025