Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC)

Minutes – June 7, 2012 Meeting

ATAC Members Present:
Julie McElhany, Chair
Anwar Karim
DongWon Choi
Randy Odom
Robin Reid
Stephanie Pinckard
Sharon Johnson
Bob Folden
Adam Haney

ATAC Members Absent:
Rusty Waller
Rick Lumadue

LMS Discovery Members Present
Julie McElhany, Chair
DongWon Choi
Robin Reid
Stephanie Pinckard
Bob Folden
Adam Haney
Melinda Schlager (by phone)

Others Present
Quamrul Kumar, Director of PMO & Process Management

1. Welcome and Presentation of Meeting Agenda

Dr. McElhany, Chair, welcomed the members and shared that the sole agenda item for this meeting is the presentation and consideration of LMS Discovery Sub-Committee Report. Dr. Robin Reid and Stephanie Pinckard will present report on behalf of the Sub-Committee.

2. Presentation of LMS Discovery Sub-Committee Report - Robin Reid and Stephanie Pinckard

Dr. Reid thanked Dr. McElhany for keeping the sub-committee organized and for keeping the committee’s work on track so they could meet the targeted completion date. ATAC and LMS Discovery Sub-Committee members were provided a printed copy of the LMS Discovery Sub-Committee Report. Robin Reid and Stephanie Pinckard presented the report which included the formation of the sub-committee, the process that the sub-committee followed to complete its investigation; Moodle functionality findings and conclusions; Sakai functionality findings and conclusions; technical findings and conclusions provided in the report by Ray Buehne, Director of Application Solutions; and the recommendation provided by the LMS Discovery Sub-committee members.

3. General Discussion on Sub-Committee Report

General discussion in response to the LMS Discovery Sub-Committee’s report and recommendation included therein ensued. Topics of discussion included points made regarding Moodle and Sakai, and costs. Mr. Karim, CIO, shared a broad overview of cost considerations that will be included in a report to President Jones.

Following a time of discussion, Julie McElhany asked if there were any additional questions on any areas included in the Sub-Committee’s report. No additional questions were asked, and she formally thanked the sub-committee members for their commitment and for their work. Sharon Johnson, ATAC committee member, and Anwar Karim also acknowledged with appreciation the work of the sub-committee.
4. Recommendation of ATAC in Response to Sub-Committee Report

Discussion ensued by the ATAC members in response to the sub-committee’s recommendation and consideration of a recommendation by the ATAC members for presentation to President Jones. The following recommendation was proposed by ATAC members:

“In response to the LMS Discovery sub-committee report, the Academic Advisory Committee (ATAC) recommends that Moodle be adopted by the university as the open source learning management system (LMS) if financial costs are neutral on a projected analysis. Additionally, ATAC recommends moving forward to an open source program with the additional condition that Texas A&M University – Commerce commits sufficient financial and human resources to create, implement, and maintain the program in order to capitalize on the strategic advantage of such a move.”

Motion made and seconded to accept the ATAC recommendation. Recommendation passed unanimously by all members of ATAC physically present at the meeting. An email was sent to the two ATAC members not physically present in the meeting to give them opportunity to agree or disagree with the ATAC recommendation. Each of the two replied to the email with the statement “I agree with the recommendation,” which means all members of ATAC were unanimous in moving the recommendation forward.