

DELIT Annual Report

Nicole Kraft, Chair 2020–2021

Duties and Responsibilities 3335–5–48.2(B)

The Council on Distance Education, Libraries, and Information Technology has the responsibility under University Rule 3335-5-48.2(B) to:

- (1) Formulate policies governing the delivery of distance education and educational and research activities and services of libraries and information technology.
- (2) Assist in the interpretation of distance education, library, and information technology services to the university community.
- (3) Assist in the presentation of major distance education, library and information technology needs to the university administration.
- (4) Advise the appropriate administrative office on the appointment of the associate vice president for distance education, the director of university libraries, and the chief information officer.

Membership 3335–5–48.2(A)

The Council consists of sixteen members:

- (1) eight faculty (at least seven tenure-track faculty),
- (2) three students,
- (3) four administrators (or their designees), and
- (4) one staff member, appointed by the university staff advisory council.

During the 2020–2021 academic year, the membership included:

Emily Buck, Faculty Council, Vice Chair, 2021

Sharon Schweikhart, Faculty Council, 2023

Jim Fredal, Faculty Council, 2023

Stephanie Aubry, Faculty Council, 2023

Curtis “Lynn” Knipe, Faculty Council, 2023

Neelam Soundarajan, Faculty Council, 2021

Jim Fowler, Faculty Council, 2022

Nicole Kraft, Faculty Council, 2022

Apoorva Mahesh, USG 2021

Utkarsh Shah, CGS, 2021

Zachary Dougherty, IPC 2021

Will Turner, USAC 2021

Administration

Alicia Bertone, Graduate School Dean

Damon Jaggars, Vice Provost and Dean, University Libraries

Liv Gjestvang, AVP Learning Technology, ODEE

Mike Hofherr/Diane Dagefoerde, CIO

A number of university stakeholders engaged with the committee regularly and offered valuable input. A few of those engaged university partners included: Holly Drake, John Heimaster (chair of the Research Computing Committee) and Stephanie Orr.

We are also grateful for the assistance and expertise of Elaine Pritchard, who served as the council secretary.

Activities in 2020–2021

DELIT met eight times during the 2020–2021 academic year, namely September 2020, October 2020, November 2020, December 2020, February 2021, March 2021, April 2021 and May 2021.

Focus Group

DELIT started the year recognizing the substantial challenges students and faculty faced in light of the pandemic and sought to quantify those challenges through the convening of a focus group.

Among the challenges that students identified were:

- Students not being able to connect to classes due to technical challenges
- Students teaching themselves
- Exhaustion
- Communication and engagement
- Tools for teaching needed
- Pedagogical shift
- Student concern about enforcing closed book tests
- A lack of consistency in the use of Carmen

Students were asked what they wished professors knew about the technology related to classes this semester and their responses included:

- Not all instructors understand how what they put out is received and used.
- Less engagement.
- There seems to be a lot more materials and busy week being thrown at students.
- Feels like students teaching themselves.
- Lacking in-depth coverage of materials.
- Difficulty getting Zoom link to work to attend a class. A lot of small technical issues come up that impact the student with no clear resolution.
- One student doesn't think his synchronous class time is used effectively. Often, time is spent troubleshooting and not supporting learning.
- Another conversation is needed to discuss the support we can provide to courses currently outside of ODEE's purview.
- There is a focus on being inclusive, but instructors have their own perspectives.
- Have lost some aspects of communication and engagement.
- Engages more with discussion boards than during class.
- Is there a misconception about what contact hours look like online? We don't know how much to pare down courses during time of adversity – slow down. Instructors need to spend more time focusing on key learning objectives.
- Not being able to work with others on homework in person is impacting learning.
- An instructor who taught a 5000 level computer science virtually, synchronous with recording, missed non-verbals from students. Students were more passive and declined participation in the virtual classroom.

Big Ten Academic Alliance's Big Collection and the shifting landscape of scholarly communications

Damon Jagers and Karla Strieb briefed us on the Big Ten Academic Alliance, in which library directors will seek to support a shared, fully networked “collective collection” that supports local students and scholars across all Big Ten schools. The goals:

Leverage the collective to improve access and service at the individual institutional level; increased support for authors to publish their work in ways that make it openly readable without purchase or

subscription; and to contain inflating subscription costs by flipping market relationships with major publishers over time, without losing access to content. This will be a continued conversation with the committee and more broadly across the university over the next couple of years.

Classroom Facilities

DELIT spent various parts of the year working with and advising classroom services as it transitioned into, through and ultimately out of pandemic spacing. In our final meeting of the year, we learned that fall 2021 classroom seating is “back to normal” for fewer than 50 students, while 51-100 student spaces are at 75% and the seven classrooms with 100 or more students will be at 50% capacity without stickering or distancing measures. Masks will be required and novel spaces borrowed for the academic year will be returned to owners. Coming next for classrooms will be “simulcast” technology including cameras in every classroom with a wider shot of the room and a zoomed shot of the instructor. Shaping classroom space around Educause’s learning spaces rating system will be a priority.

ALX updates

We were updated on the Affordable Learning Exchange, which fosters development and utilization of affordable learning materials. So far 114 projects have been developed in six cohorts in 25+ departments across all campuses. An estimated 60,000 students have been impacted by \$12 million savings. 2020-2021 marked the launch of 10 Racial Justice Grant winners, funding faculty projects that include social justice and racial equity. The council stressed the need to build support for this program among academic leaders.

CIO Search

Kraft and Jaggars are both serving on the university’s Chief Information Officer search committee. An external search firm is leading the search and applications closed April 26 and interviews begin in May.

President Johnson Meeting

Nicole met with Dr. Kristina M. Johnson as part of the Faculty Council to address issues related to technology in education and raised the issue of lack of training and structure around the academic use of technology. She advocated for professional development at cost (funding and time) to faculty/staff. Dr. Johnson charged the committee to pursue ways to make Ohio State a pathway for lifelong learning and materials, and Nicole met with ODEE to potentially pilot a pathway project with the Glenn College.

Sub-Committee structure for DELIT

DELIT reviewed the results of the committees survey conducted through the Senate office, and had the following feedback:

- Libraries is deserving of its own committee.
- The remaining committee should exist in subcommittees: one for teaching and learning and one for IT implementation.
- Concerns about decoupling policy discussions from tech discussions.
- DELIT would meet more frequently and attendance issues would need to be addressed.
- Suggestion was made to add someone from the Drake Institute to committee.

Carmen Common Sense

DELIT continued its significant focus on Carmen adoption and usage, and the impact on students. We continued our work with USG to remedy inconsistent Carmen usage among courses and faculty, and progressive opportunities for Carmen engagement through “Carmen Common Sense.” We enhanced with UITL the instructional redesign program around Carmen Common Sense that is

being taught in a cohort model in May 2020. The program has been expanded through incorporation with ODEE's keep-teaching.osu.edu resources.

ePortfolio pilot

As part of the University's implementation of the new GE, a digital portfolio for students is being piloted -- Portfolium. Once it is determined if this is the right tool for the university, we will move to implementation. A pilot was underway in Spring 2021 to produce data so that the committee overseeing the pilot can make decisions.

Digital Flagship

Some updates from Digital Flagship included:

- By fall 2021 95% of undergraduates will have iPads and in Autumn of 2022, it will be closer to 100%.
- Virtual orientation has impacted how we distribute iPads.
- Last year we shipped them to regional campus students.
- 9,500 Columbus campus students went through a socially-distanced iPad deployment at St. John's Arena.
- 90% of students received their iPad before the start of the semester.
- 9,500 safe and contact-free deployments for summer.
- Have loaned 500 iPads to students.
- Have distributed to over 600 faculty since beginning of program.
- Have transferred returned student iPads to some of the instructional staff.
- Have paused some of the transfer of devices to staff, due to student demands for loaners.
- 3,500 coding initiative participants.
- We have opened up our coding certificate programs to the public.
- Mobile design lab has been on hiatus during COVID. Will launch physical design lab this spring in alignment with university COVID guidelines.
- The committee stressed the need to have iPads in hands of graduate students and other instructors.
- ODEE is aware that it is important for instructors to have the tools and support and acknowledged the gaps are due to a resource issue.

Endpoint Detection and Response

This spring, ODEE's security team will deploy an endpoint detection and response tool that allows security to monitor desktop/laptops for indicators of compromise which reveal the presence of malicious software on a device, or unusual transmission of data on university-owned laptops and desktops. Federal Government regulations are changing to require continuous monitoring of research environments. Without an EDR solution as part of an enhanced security strategy, OSU will not be eligible to apply for research grants. The Office of Research and University Compliance Committee asked Enterprise Security to oversee a pilot of security tools to assist with protection of HRPP systems.

Timeline:

- Spring 2021: Working with a sub-set of the HRP population, Enterprise Security will compare three solutions for Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) and obtain funding. It will deploy to 500-600 people this spring, including researchers and institutional leaders.
- Summer 2021: Propose best solution, implement service
- FY22: Deploy to all HRP population
- FY23: Deploy to entire university and medical center

Research Computing

John W. Heimaster kept DELIT abreast of research computing engagements at the university. Research is, of course, a primary mission of the university, funded at over \$900 million per year. John continues to attend our monthly sessions and provide a much-needed voice on issues in this area as they arise.

Other Business

Emily Buck was elected chair for the 2021–2022 academic year. Stephanie Aubry was elected vice chair.

DELIT continues to have significant issues with attendance this academic year. This was discussed with Ben Givens, and he and the chair attempted to stimulate participation to little avail. It is hoped that the new committee makeup will include more engaged members, to join the core attendees.

The next academic year promises to be a busy one, with continued discussions around the transition to virtual learning in the event of future pandemic challenges, as well as Carmen Common Sense, Digital Flagship, privacy policy, data security, affordability, accessibility and library resources.