DRAFT LMIS Minutes, December 6th, 2019

Committee members present: Derek Buescher, Genevieve Caskey, Jeremy Cucco, Andrew Gomez, Matthew Link, Janet Marcavage, Katie Peake, Adam Smith (chair).

I.   Meeting called to order by committee chair, Adam Smith at 11:05 AM.

II.   The Nov. 15th LMIS meeting minutes were approved.

III.   Discussion of the composition of the LMIS committee regarding charge to make Library and Technology Services equally represented in the committee. Jane Carlin and Jeremy Cucco will draft language for a motion to the faculty for the committee to discuss and move forward. The committee had some discussion about the overall composition of the committee based on needs of the workload. Members present felt that the current composition is appropriate.

IV.   Chair Smith raised a discussion about the University being tied to a number of corporate subscription services and wondered about any concerns with being beholden to these financially driven interests. Carlin indicated that as a result of an overall conversation across higher education has led to current stability in the costs of some subscriptions services. Cucco indicated that we have less flexibility in the large technology firms such as Apple, Microsoft, Google. The committee discussed the costs of Apple products comparative to PC and the possibility of phasing out Apple products across certain sectors of the campus. Phasing out certain sectors of Apple products would enable reallocation or reduction of funds. Conversation continued to consider the development of small clouds for lab computing as an offset to computer labs for programming and other needs. Cucco mentioned that labs are not as cost intensive as we might think when amortized over the lifespan of computers. Other areas, like software subscription, might provide better cost savings over the short and long term. Cucco and Carlin also discussed lab needs and the impacts of labs on educational outcomes that must be considered in concert with the budget constraints.

V.   Technology Services is piloting chromebooks as alternative systems that work well and could be considered as check out systems for students that are lower costs and easy to maintain. Link indicated chromebooks are also highly functional for student employee workspace or visiting faculty systems. Smith noted that chromebooks are not as functional for JAVA compiler, but this may be changing. Gomez raised questions about lifecycle of chromebooks. Link noted that lifecycle duration of current machines on campus vary from system to system so that not everything is on a 4-year replacement plan but is determined by use plans. Smith asked that any future computers have basic functionality for web browsing and PDF readers.

VI.   Gomez asked about the viability of computers in classrooms going forward. Cucco indicated that podiums with computers in classrooms are less practical and the university is having continuing conversations regarding their viability. The podiums are used at high rates for guest presenters and removal of podiums needs to account for impact to guest presenters, in particular, for presenters for the Race and Pedagogy National Conference.

VII.   Smith returned the question of media streaming and asked if Technology Services is able to make clips for faculty from DVD and CDs. Technology Services already supports the digitization of content. This process begins with the Library where copies of content are often already stored and/or hosted and continues with Technology Services to work with faculty to supplement material and evaluate hosting.

VIII.   The committee discussed Spring term discussion topics and charges for planning purposes.

IX.   The committee thanked Adam Smith for his service as Chair and welcomed Janet Marcavage as chair for the spring term.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:59

Respectfully Submitted,
Derek Buescher