**Educational and Research Technologies Committee Annual Report, 2023 – 2024**

Submitted by Helen Read, ERTC Chair

**ERTC Charge:** The ERTC shall have the responsibility of matters related to the development and implementation of educational and research technologies at the University that guide acquisition of information literacy by students and faculty.  It shall review and recommend policies and procedures relating to the planning, introduction, and use of campus-wide technologies, including computers, communications, electronic data handling, and instructional media.  The committee shall assume responsibility for informing the administration of educational and research priorities and needs related to information literacy and see that these are considered in all planning.  It shall maintain close liaison with the Curricular Affairs Committee, the Financial and Physical Planning Committee, the Student Affairs Committee, and the Research, Scholarship, and Graduate Education Committee.  Each of these committees shall appoint one of their elected members to serve as a voting member on the Educational and Research Technologies Committee.  The committee shall maintain close liaison with appropriate administrative offices in its areas of responsibility and with the Facilities and Technologies Committee of the Board of Trustees.

**ERTC Members:** Mark Starrett (CALS), Amy Huges Lansing (CAS), Marc Law (CAS) Fall 2023, Meghan Cope (CAS) Spring 2024 (sabbatical replacement for Marc Law), Hung Do (GSB), Regina Toolin (CESS), Helen Read (CEMS), Jarlath O'Neill-Dunne (RSENR), Laura Haines (Libraries), Sara Pawlowski (LCOM), Delphine Quenet (LCOM), Tim Tourville (CNHS), Suraj Joshi (SGA).

Much of the ERTC's work over the year is to serve as a standing focus group for ETS, CTL, the CIO, and other stakeholders involved in the use of technology across campus, and as a conduit for gathering information about technology initiatives that can be shared with the campus community. Items addressed by the ERTC during AY 2023 – 24 include the following.

**1. ETS updates (Mike Austin, Ian Davis)**.

- Mike Austin updated the committee about the migration from on-premises Microsoft Exchange (email and calendar) to Exchange Online, which began in spring 2023 and continued into fall 2023; the new Teams client (which launched in October, 2024); One Drive migration; and the CIO search.
- Ian Davis gave the ERTC an overview of upcoming changes to management of UVM-owned Windows computers. ETS will be migrating Windows computers to Intune, which is a modern replacement for System Center Configuration Manager, the system that has been used to manage our computers for many years. The ERTC chair will report on this at the April meeting of the Faculty Senate.

**2. CIO Updates (Darcy Pientka).**

- Personnel changes. Darcy Pientka has been named Interim CIO. Scott Carbee joined UVM as Information Security Officer.
- Updated Acceptable Use Policy and Information Security Policy will be coming soon.
- Planning has begun for classroom technology refreshes that will happen over the summer.

**3. Brightspace Transition (Wendy Verrei-Berenback).** Wendy reported on the successful launch of Brightspace at the beginning of the fall semester. Self-service functions are available for adding teaching assistants to your Brightspace course, creating sandbox spaces, and creating non-credit spaces for co-curricular activity. They have been working on new integrations (Ally, Gradescope, Turnitin). Another ongoing project is to implement a way to push grades directly from Brightspace to Banner. The Center for Teaching and Learning will continue to offer training and support for Brightspace.

**4. MyUVM Portal (Veronika Carter, Rachel Seremeth, Max Medina).** Veronika, Max, and Rachel (who subsequently left UVM) visited the ERTC several times throughout the year regarding the upcoming replacement for the MyUVM portal, which is reaching end of life. ERTC members had many questions at the time of the initial presentation in October, and asked to be given access to the test environment. At a subsequent meeting, ERTC members (having tried out the test environment) expressed a great deal of concern that the new platform would not be ready for launch before the start of the spring semester as planned, and urged the team to do what they could to shore up MyUVM so that we could continue to use it for the spring semester and delay the rollout of the new portal until summer 2024. At another meeting, access to a pilot of the new platform was announced, and ERTC members were encouraged to sign up for the pilot and give feedback. The new platform is expected to go fully live (and MyUVM to be retired) in late May or early June 2024.

**5. Libraries Services Migration (Molly Rogers and Bryn Geffert).** Molly Rogers gave an overview on the library services migration. Most changes are behind the scenes and will make the system more efficient and easier to use. Molly provided the committee with a preview of the new look of CatQuest. The ERTC submitted an informational report about this project to the Faculty Senate before the launch of the new system (which went live in January, 2024).

**6. Wireless Concerns (Randy Spooner).** ERTC was concerned about poor Wi-Fi on campus at the start of the fall semester. Network Services has since then corrected most of the issues, and has been working to upgrade wireless in more classrooms. If you are having issues with Wi-Fi, it is easier for Network Services to troubleshoot if you report it to them at the time you are experiencing the problem.

**7. Electronic Signatures.** An ERTC member raised concerns about the lack of standards on electronic signatures across campus. Mike Austin advised that it would be easier to implement electronic signatures for a few things initially rather than for everything all at once, and asked for feedback on areas where electronic signatures are especially needed. If anyone has suggestions on this, please let the ERTC know, and the ERTC will pursue it further.

**8. NVivo.** Faculty who use NVivo for qualitative research would like UVM to purchase a license that provides more functionality than what is currently available to campus users. Mike Austin advised that the first step is to get more information about the number of users and pricing. ERTC will follow up on this when more information is available.