Technology Planning Committee meeting 9/7/2012

Atendees: Blake Adams (attending for Kathy Kral), Myrna Gantner, Janet Gubbins, Tom Brommage, Yun-Jo An, Dean Sullivan, Craig Schroer

Miscellaneous opening notes
- Craig announced that a SGA representative (Marcus Hurey) had been assigned to the committee
- Minutes from Technology Committee meetings will be submitted to the VPAA's office for addition to the webpage

Overview/update on D2L and Turnitin (presented by Janet Gubbins)
- D2L (Desire 2 Learn) was chosen by USG system upon the advice of students, faculty and administrators and the whole USG system will be moving to it statewide.
- D2L is going live in early January of 2013
- All instructors and faculty will need to attend orientation in order to receive their account to use D2L
- D2L is not Java-based and this will avoid some of the browser errors associated with Blackboard
- The Wimba suite of distance meeting utilities (now called *Collaborate*) will be used in place of current tools.
- *Collaborate* is not integrated into D2L so there may be some incompatibilities or workarounds that will be necessary
- One thing of which to be aware is that D2L interface is a portal and, as such, may look something like MyUWG (a possible point of confusion for users)
- Turnitin will also be introduced in early January and provides additional tools aside from plagiarism detection. Miscellaneous features include ability to input students writing into system (as PDF) which then can automatically detect spelling and grammar mistakes as well as check on proper usage of citations. It will also include graphing features that will make it easier to gauge students' strengths and weaknesses as well as their improvement over the course of the semester.

New email and calendar system for UWG
- Committee members agreed on proposing Gmail and Google Calendar as new campuswide standards.
- Blake Adams shared results of last year's survey and trial of Google products versus Microsoft Live (results which strongly favored Google products)
- Technology Committee will be on this month's (September 2012) Faculty Senate meeting agenda in order to give a presentation about moving to Gmail/Google Calendar

- Craig and Kathy (or Blake) will give the presentation at Faculty Senate meeting and faculty will be asked to consider the proposal in preparation for a future vote on whether to endorse this change.
- Miscellaneous notes for presentation:
- Other USG schools (e.g., Georgia Southern) who have moved to Gmail/Calendar should be consulted for their input/experience/advice
- Various email and calendar systems are currently in use at UWG, including Corporate Time and (Business and Finance) MS Exchange Server. These concerns of these constituencies need to be addressed specifically
- Gmail and Google Calendar will probably not provide all of the functionalities of MS Exchange
- Implementation of email would likely be done in the coming year on an "Opt in" basis with more enthusiastic departments being able to make shift rapidly while those need more preparation time would receive assistance to ultimately be able to have made transfer to gmail by fall 2013
- Implementation of campuswide calendar system is more potentially problematic in terms of "Opt in" timing
- Some faculty (Doug Turner in Business?) may have concerns about security of Google products
- It is believed that the USG Legal Department will require that adoption of Google products be considered as an "ongoing pilot project" (because of their "freeware" status and the resultant nebulous legal standing between Google and UWG)

Consideration of Institutional Repository for UWG
- Committee members were supportive of proceeding with making the case to faculty and administration in favor of establishing an IR for UWG.
- It was agreed that a remote-hosted service would best match our needs and capabilities.
- Craig is arranging for a presentation to be given at an upcoming Dean's Meeting.
- Craig gave a brief presentation highlighting how an Institutional Repository (IR) could further UWG's mission:
  - facilitate the publication of online academic journals of undergraduate, graduate and faculty research
  - provide online access to full-text of student dissertations and theses
  - establish a stable online address for University reports and promotional materials
  - reinforce student perception of the "real world" value of research through promoting community focused research and publication opportunities
  - strengthen our bonds to the community at-large
  - support goals of student retention, progression, and graduation

- raise our institutional profile by using a platform which is search engine optimized (i.e., our content would show up in search engine results)
- create a persistent location for maintaining institutional memory (i.e., department-sponsored events, conferences, talks, and exhibits including multimedia content such as concerts, lectures, etc.)
- Showcase student achievements as documented in such events as Research Days and Big Night thereby creating a permanent online portfolio of their accomplishments at the University of West Georgia
- assist with faculty compliance in adhering to federal guidelines concerning the accessibility of publicly funded research
- establish persistent links to student work, which may be included in a portfolio to improve employment opportunities after graduation

Single Sign-On System for UWG
- Blake gave a brief overview of steps being taken to move UWG toward a single sign-on system for the University.
- Questions to be addressed as we move in this direction include:
- Identifying which services can be integrated into single sign-on
- What additional funds (and sources) will be necessary to accomplish single sign-on goals
- What timeline and for which functionalities might be anticipated

Action Items
- Craig will have Technology Committee presentation on gmail/Google Calendar placed on upcoming Faculty Senate meeting agenda
- Kathy and ITS (Dale Driver) will work to assemble briefing information for presentation concerning technical considerations
- Craig and Kathy (or Blake) will develop presentation for September Faculty Senate meeting
- Craig will pursue scheduling an IR presentation for Dean's Meeting this fall
- Craig will contact Janet Gubbins in regard to identifying other colleagues with a marked interest in developing a UWG IR
- Craig (and or IR task force members) will communicate with program directors of graduate schools at UWG offering Masters, Ed.D, and Ph.D degrees regarding and IR and digital archiving of theses and dissertations