Ursuline College Technology Plan

Introduction:

The Ursuline College Community recently completed their first year of our new four-year strategic plan. Ursuline College's strategic plan was developed with the help from a third-party consulting group that spent months gathering information and input from administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and stakeholders. As part of the strategic plan, four priority areas were identified, and action steps were developed. One priority area identified was the enhancement of the campus environment and our use of human, technological, and financial resources to improve student retention and graduation rates. One action step identified was the improvement of Ursuline's technology footprint. Before making investments and decisions regarding technology, this technology plan was developed to determine what is appropriate for Ursuline College and what will improve the overall educational experience for students, staff, and faculty on our campus. As part of this process, I reviewed the National Technology Education plan, State of Ohio's Technology plan, and ISTE standards.

Team Planning:

The campus currently has an online learning and technology committee which composes of several faculty and staff members. The committee serves to review current technology practices and make proposals to president's council.

> Strengths: This committee has a good mix of faculty and staff from different departments on campus. Committee members have varying degrees of technology savvy and are well equipped to make recommendations about technology needs in their department.

> Weaknesses: While the committee has a good mix of faculty and staff, representing both academic and student affairs, not every department, specifically academic disciplines are represented. Additionally, this committee has largely failed to meet on a regular or consistent basis, leading to technology issues not being addressed or escalated to the appropriate individuals.

> Recommendations: At least one individual from each academic department should be represented on the committee to make recommendations for their department, ideally department chairs. Meetings should be conducted twice a semester with students being invited two to three times a year to provide feedback. Finally, at the conclusion of the year, the committee should make recommendations regarding technology for the upcoming year to maintain technologically relevant.

Curriculum Alignment and Instructional Integration:

> Strengths: Throughout the academic year, the computer and information technology department hold technology development sessions for faculty and staff. Processes for measuring and assessing learning outcomes and literacies are

being developed within the College's learning management system for smoother reporting.

Weaknesses: Many faculty members do not utilize the learning management system or attend technology development sessions; therefore, students do not have access to immediate feedback regarding assignments and grades. Assessment measures are recorded manually and therefore slow down the workflow when prepare reports for accreditation purposes. Software is not installed and accessible on all computers therefore disrupting instruction for faculty and learning experience for students.

Recommendations: Mandate attendance to technology sessions for faculty and staff as part of annual performance goals. Require faculty to use learning management system for student feedback and gradebook. Install and regularly update software on all College systems and ensure that software needs align with academic department needs.

Technology Policy, Leadership, and Administration

Strengths: Professional development opportunities in the areas of technology and planning have increased over the past year.

Weaknesses: There is no existing literature available regarding technology policies on campus or any specific goals. There is currently no one serving as an instructional designer or instructional technology on campus and the building that serves as the hub for classes is not currently staffed with anyone from computer and information services.

Recommendations: A instructional designer and instructional technologist need to be hired to provide adequate support to faculty and staff or positions within the computer and information service department need to be restructured to address current needs. More formal policies need to be put in place with firm guidelines regarding technology use and expectations in the classroom.

Technology Infrastructure Management and Support

Strengths: Network effectively serves student, faculty and staff. Classrooms have been equipped with updated audio/visual equipment. Outdated computer systems have been replaced over the past year, starting with student areas and classrooms and then finishing with faculty and staff. Students, faculty, and staff have access to download Microsoft suite and cloud storage on personal/home computers through the College.

Weaknesses: Complaints regarding WiFi access in dormitories is frequent. Students no longer allowed to check out laptop computers for classroom use. Computers and software are not updated regularly.

Recommendations: Explore solutions to resolve bandwidth hogging in the dormitories and install WiFi extenders. Ensure computers and software are receiving regular updates and revisit laptop loaner policies for classroom use.

Budget and Planning

Strengths: N/A

Weaknesses: N/A

Recommendations: This information is largely unavailable to me. I would recommend making budget and planning expenses available to all faculty and staff for input and transparency. Additionally, assigning personnel within institutional advancement to work with the computer services department to secure grants and outside funding for technology upgrades would be beneficial.