Teaching and Learning IT Plan

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A number of areas within UCD have benefited from the deployment of a range of teaching and learning "back-end" systems over the past 10 years. Furthermore, over the past three years, the implementation of the Blackboard eLearning environment has been widely adopted with over 20,000 users, 4,000 courses and 85% student use.

The key focus for this three year plan is to leverage these developments and focus on developing and implementing services to support the areas of *Classroom Technology, Electronic Content Development & Delivery, and expand Mobile Services.*

The IT strategy for UCD outlines five new objectives to build upon this foundation. These are:

3.1 Implementation of ICT Classroom Technology (SMT Teaching & Learning Enhancement Project)

3.5 Implementation of support model for ICT in Classrooms in collaboration with Building Services

3.6 Implementation of "e-content" development support service to promote eLearning

3.7 Expand mobile services to cater for the new student profile – laptop, eContent & mobile software

3.8 Work to expand new learning & social spaces, which are fully technology enabled

The following five programmes of work are proposed to meet these objectives and bring Teaching and Learning IT services in UCD to the next stage of development. They focus more strongly on enhancing services to our many user communities. The five priority programmes are:

(1) Standardised ICT classroom technology and a support model

(2) Technology enabled learning and social spaces

(3) Expand mobile services

(4) Lecture Capture

(5) eLearning Design & Development Service

1. Standardised ICT Classroom Technology and Support Model

Technology is an enabler of learning when instructors use it effectively. Therefore, it is important to ensure that there are no problems with the technology itself, that the instructors are trained on how to use it and that they receive responsive support in the event there may be problems. The current standard of AV equipment in the teaching spaces is non-standard, antiquated, and hard to use with a poor level of support and response.

Strategic Objectives

- Ensure there is a standard set of AV equipment available in all bookable teaching spaces.

- Ensure the equipment has a high level of availability, reliability and performance.

- Provide a one stop shop support service with guaranteed levels of response and recovery.

Expected Benefits

- To ensure a reliable, easy to use and supported AV service is in place, would remove this barrier to learning for the student.

- It complements existing work on the standardisation of ICT technology in the Newman Theatres.

2. Technology Enabled Learning and Social Spaces

Over 80% of students in UCD now own a laptop and wireless access on campus is now the norm. This has led to a demand from students for communal laptop friendly/social learning spaces and casual laptop access areas.

Strategic Objectives

- Ensure there is laptop friendly/social learning spaces and casual laptop access areas in all major buildings.

Expected Benefits

- These spaces will encourage student engagement in collaborative learning and increase the effectiveness of the physical learning environment.

3. Expand Mobile Services

UCD‟s students have over 80% laptop ownership and the demand for electronic resources is very high hence the need to make all our services and resources available to mobile devices both on and off campus. 60% of academic staff ranked having access to software applications off campus as important. In support of both these requirements, Teaching & Learning IT Services want to make software applications available both on and off campus to mobile and home devices for both staff and students.

Strategic Objectives

- Provide a software delivery system which can deliver software applications to staff and student client devices both on and off campus through a web interface via single sign on from UCD Connect.

- The system should be capable of delivering software to Windows, MAC and Linux clients in a reliable and performent manner.

Expected Benefits

- This will allow both staff and students the option to work on software assignments from any location and using their own client device.

4. Lecture Capture

According to the ECAR student technology survey, all students indicated convenience as one of the top two most valuable benefits of IT. By capturing teaching material for subsequent access by students, it will meet the growing demand for flexible, technology based course offerings as distance learning becomes an integral supplement to classroom instruction.

Strategic Objectives

- Provide instructors with an easy to use method of capturing lecture content (presentation, audio and video) with automated publishing of this to the web and/or Blackboard. The technology should be simple to use and require little intervention from the lecturer.

- Provide a software delivery system which can deliver software applications to staff and student client devices both on and off campus through a web interface via single sign on from our portal.

Expected Benefits

- It is hoped this will promote the capture of teaching material and will give students subsequent access to class material to meet the growing demand for flexible, technology based course offerings as distance learning becomes an integral supplement to classroom instruction.

5. eLearning Design & Development Service

According to the ECAR student technology survey, technology only improves learning when instructors use it effectively. Therefore instructors need an eLearning Design & Development service to support them to effectively integrate technology and pedagogy, to develop instructor technology skill sets, and to increase instructors‟ awareness of how their students differ in technology savvy and access to technology resources.

Strategic Objectives

- Provide instructors with an easy to use method of capturing lecture content (presentation, audio and video) with automated publishing of this to the web and/or Blackboard. The technology should be simple to use and require little intervention from the lecturer.

- Provide a software delivery system which can deliver software applications to staff and student client devices both on and off campus through a web interface via single sign on from UCD Connect.

Expected Benefits

It is hoped this will promote the capture of teaching material, and will give students subsequent access to class material to meet the growing demand for flexible, technology based course offerings as distance learning becomes an integral supplement to classroom instruction.