**IT Steering Committee**

**10/24/17**

**Discussion on Accessibility and IT related activities**

* The bulk of this month’s meeting time was devoted to a presentation from Tawny McManus, Director of the Office of Student Disability Services & Accessibility Resources.
* Tawny’s office works to increase awareness of UMBC’s responsibilities regarding accessible content for students, faculty and staff.
* Their priority is to help students get access to course materials by adding captioning to videos, or typing PDFs into documents that can be read by screen readers.
* They review UMBC websites and posted course content to check for accessibility. They also have information for faculty to help them make their course materials accessible.
* This group will form a committee to develop a campus-wide Accessibility Plan per the USM Accessible Technology and Information Guidelines adopted in April 2017.
* The IT Steering Committee will have further discussions to determine whether it makes sense for the group developing the plan to be a subcommittee of the steering committee.
* For more information, their web site is: <http://sds.umbc.edu/>.

**Library Strategic Plan**

* Library Director Patrick Dawson presented the Library’s recently completed Strategic Plan, which coordinates with and reflects the intentions of UMBC’s Strategic Plan.
* There is an emphasis in the plan on making spaces in the Library as useful and effective as possible for students, faculty and staff.
* Implementation of the plan will include research on alternative funding sources, such as endowing subscriptions to journals.

**EU GDPR**

* DoIT VP Jack Suess provided information on the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). When this law goes into effect in May 2018, it will be the primary law regulating how companies protect EU citizens' personal data.
* DoIT staff are investigating how UMBC will comply with this regulation.

**Blackboard Upgrade to Learn Ultra**

* This upgrade will be phased in gradually beginning this coming spring with final cut over planned for fall 2019. Two systems will be used simultaneously during the transition.
* Info sessions/training will be scheduled as appropriate.
* Timeline may change based on when upgrade is ready and how pilot goes.

Feel free to send questions my way.

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