

Disclaimer: Meeting minutes only for the audience of the NESS group

IT Steering Committee, Friday, December 18, 2020

Damian Doyle. Update on NSF MRI Data Science Cluster. New High performance Computing Cluster that can perform parallel computing tasks. It's a cluster of 13 servers.

Delana Gregg/Sarah Shin

FOLIO UPdate.

Fostering Online Improvement and Opportunity (FOLIO) and the PIVOT program will continue in the spring in a more reduced way. PIVOT is the faculty facing group and FOLIO is for students. The number of online classes will be about the same in the spring as in the fall. We don't know what will happen next fall.

A lot of collaboration between staff, faculty, and students to figure out how to help students and faculty to work through these times. There is a website called <https://covid19.umbc.edu/> Where all information about how to deal with day to day during this time. A survey showed that the students could not connect and engage as they wanted to during the pandemic. They developed a series of tools for students and faculty to be able to do this better. They are using the technical tools that we already support and other things. Blackboard has a lot of interactional ways to work. Discussion boards, etc. Other Universities in USM are interested in what we are doing. Tutoring online is very popular. There is a drop-in tutoring function. FOLIO is not a national movement but something made up at UMBC. It could become one, but it is not now.

They realized that it wasn't just faculty to learn how to teach online, but also the learner needed to learn how to learn online. Many factors are missing in an online environment, for example, going to the coffee shop, meeting each other in the hallway, etc. It is essential to set goals for every learning hour and online lesson. FOLIO can help them develop those goals and make them more attainable. Three thousand tutoring appointments, 8000 SI visits. All during this fall. There is a video to help students understand how to learn online <https://covid19.umbc.edu/online-learning/getting-started/>

One question is if PIVOT and FOLIO will exist post-pandemic. It's a good question to discuss and might be a possibility.

High Flex classroom will be implemented during the spring semester. Better opportunity for online learning and in-class learning. Better video, audio, etc.

We need about three times as many as we already have planned to be prepared for the new times. This, according to Dr. Moreira.

Ariana Arnold. Changes to myUMBC Postings

She is in the office of sexual harassment and equity. They have seen an increase in degenerated posts in the online spaces, social media, websites blackboard, etc. Her office is trying to explain the difference between freedom of speech and harassment. Hard to remove

some of these postings. Fifty complaints on one myUMBC post as of now. They will host workshops around Free speech and what it is, and where the limits are. This is the wording that they will present for the spring semester:

“myUMBC is a UMBC limited public community forum for information sharing and dialogue.

As a public institution, UMBC generally may not limit a community member’s right to free speech on this forum. UMBC does not endorse the views expressed or information presented here unless specifically stated in an official UMBC post. To learn more....”

One problem is that people get to keep their UMBC emails when they stop working, teaching, and going to school there. They can then use it for posting offensive language in the “name” of UMBC.

At the pen: Helena Dahlen