MERRIMACK COLLEGE

PROVOST BRIEFING

May 22, 2017

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Here are some of this week's top stories, and a look ahead.

- Instructional Technology Vision
- CETL: Edtech Training with Sue Burch from Apple, May 23 and 24
- CETL: Experiential Education Workshop with Marty Ford from WACE, May 24
- CETL: Reacting to the Past Workshop with Columbia's Dr. Rebecca Jane Stanton, May 25
- Pivot Software - Sponsored Funding Database Training, May 25
- Blackboard Update is Complete
- Open Office Hours with Melissa Siegel (Director of Sponsored Programs), every Friday
- New online Academic Catalog
- June Orientation, June 20 and June 22
- Summer Institutional Review Board (IRB) Status

Instructional Technology Vision

Dear Colleagues,

After a semester of listening and engaging the Merrimack community, and following a visit to the Apple headquarters in California, I'm excited to set as one of my signature priorities as provost a commitment to create and further develop instructional technology on campus.

To support this goal, my office recently awarded Provost Innovation Funds to faculty-led teams seeking to employ technology to enhance teaching, learning, and scholarship.

In addition, representatives from Student and Academic Success, Residence Life, Communications and other campus services met with area innovation leaders to discuss plans to leverage mobility to enhance the student experience. I have also been thoroughly impressed with the level of faculty engagement and expertise in leveraging mobile technologies to enhance the educational experience for our students.

As a result of your work, Merrimack College is well-positioned to become an Apple Distinguished School in the next two years. The Office of the Provost remains committed to providing resources and supporting development with opportunities to work with Apple's Sue Burch as soon as this week.

How can you help? As you vision your upcoming courses, please consider the following:

- Find accessible and alternative instructional materials/textbooks/apps to reduce cost and increase digital competency
- Purposefully include devices in the classroom
- Articulate guidelines in your syllabus
- Allow and encourage digital distribution of materials
- Consider adding to selected assignments (students can use varied tools on the iPad to do a creative project that demonstrates the competencies tested by assignment)
- Use one app in class to start. The camera is great to start with (photo, video, or even the new Clips app) = works with ANY DISCIPLINE
- Attend CETL professional development this May and/or August
- Engage the CETL for individualized development

Al Weatherwax and the Office of the Provost

CETL: Edtech Training with Sue Burch from Apple

May 23 and May 24
Registration Link

Tuesday, May 24
9:00 - 10:00, Action Research: Creating and Implementing Assessment Plans for iBooks Author
Provost Conference Room
Description: If you are using or thinking of using iBooks Author, this session will help you create and/or revise your assessment strategy that will inform your teaching practice

10:15 - 11:30, Make it and Take it - Using any Tools!
Mack Club, Sakowich Center
Description: This content development session is driven by you and your needs; bring your existing content in whatever form (worksheets, PowerPoints, PDFs, etc.) and transform into a seamless workflow. Tools include iWork Apps, iMovie, GarageBand, and iCloud.

11:45 - 1:00 (Lunch session), Merrimack Instructional Innovators "One Best Thing"
Mack Club, Sakowich Center
Description: Come learn with your MC colleagues to gather and share ideas!

1:15 - 2:30, Top 10 Basics
Mack Club, Sakowich Center
Description: Is your iPad still in the bottom drawer? This session will get you up and running with your iPad in the classroom. We promise! Topics include: Control Center, Icon Management, Apps and iOS Management, Spotlight Search, Camera Basic, Personalization through Setting, Safari Reader, and How to Play Videos!

3:00 - 4:00, Sign up for a personal appointment with Sue

Wednesday, May 24
All sessions will take place in the Provost Conference Room, Austin Hall

9:30 - 11:00, Top 10 Basics
Description: Is your iPad still in the bottom drawer? This session will get you up and running with your iPad in the classroom. We promise! Topics include: Control Center, Icon Management, Apps and iOS Management, Spotlight Search, Camera Basic, Personalization through Setting, Safari Reader, and How to Play Videos!

11:15 - 12:45 (Lunch Session), Make it and Take it - Using any Tools!
Description: This content development session is driven by you and your needs; bring your existing content in whatever form (worksheets, PowerPoints, PDFs, etc.) and transform into a seamless workflow. Tools include iWork Apps, iMovie, GarageBand, and iCloud.

1:00 - 2:30 Creative Engagement: Flip an assignment, a lesson, or flip your entire class!
Leverage the mobile platform to create engaging learning experiences for your students. Learn to: Provide incentives for students to prepare for class; flip assignments using Explain Everything, Numbers, and iMovie; and provide a mechanism to assess student understanding using Google forms or using responseware in class.

2:45 - 4:00 Productivity and Creativity Tools and Workflow
Move around the room and complete activities using tools that will promote creativity and productivity in your classroom. Featured Modules: Capturing and Sharing Learning with Keynote, Flipping Content with Explain Everything, Strengthening Learning by creating a Podcast with GarageBand, and Label, Learn, and Reflect with Notes and iMovie.

CETL: Experiential Education Workshop with Marty Ford from WACE

Wednesday, May 24
9:00 - 12:00 (Lunch will be provided)
Mendel 169
This interactive workshop will help you to integrate experiential learning opportunities into your curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment. Whether you are brand new to experiential education or are an EE veteran, this workshop will be individualized to meet your needs.

Registration Link

CETL: Reacting to the Past Workshop with Columbia's Dr. Rebecca Jane Stanton

Thursday, May 25
9:00 - 3:00 (Lunch will be provided)
Mendel 169
Join this highly interactive workshop with Reacting to the Past (RTTP) facilitator Dr. Rebecca Stanton from Columbia University. RttP consists of elaborate interdisciplinary games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles informed by classic texts in the history of ideas. Class sessions are run entirely by students; instructors advise and guide students and grade their oral and written work. It seeks to draw students into the past, promote engagement with big ideas, and improve intellectual and academic skills. Reacting to the Past was honored with the 2004 Theodore Hesburgh Award (TIAA-CREF) for outstanding innovation in higher education. Learn to facilitate RttP class sessions by playing one yourself! This interactive session will introduce you to one of RttP's most popular games, Greenwich Village. For more information on RttP, visit Reacting. **Participation is limited to 20.**

Game Details: Greenwich Village, 1913, Suffrage, Labor and the New Woman
For additional background information on the game: Greenwich Village RTTP Game
Registration Link

Pivot Software - Sponsored Funding Database Training

May 25, 12:00 - 1:00 (Lunch will be provided)
Provost Conference Room, Austin Hall
The search for private and federal funding opportunities has just gotten easier! Merrimack has purchased a license agreement to Pivot, which is a comprehensive funding opportunity database. Pivot also enables users to create individual profiles based on research or program interests, opening up opportunity for collaboration with other Merrimack faculty or the broader international research community. Users will be able to run their own funding searches and/or request the assistance of Corporate and Foundation Development (CFD) and the Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP). Please join us for an overview of how to make the Pivot Software system work for you.

Registration Link

Blackboard Update is Complete

The upgrade to our Blackboard environment has been completed! Blackboard is fully functional and SafeAssign is once again available.

Moving to a cloud platform allows for maintenance and fixes to be delivered faster, with no impact to faculty and students during system updates. You will also notice a new drag and drop feature to make creating modules and assignments easier for faculty, and submitting assignments easier for students! Through the new BbStudent app, students can now easily submit work from their Google Drive into Blackboard and participate in discussions right from their mobile device. In addition to these and other great new features, we are now in a position to begin exploring the new Ultra Experience. We encourage you click through to the Ultra site and become familiar with where Blackboard is headed in the future.

The Academic Technology team truly appreciates how patient you were through this process so that we could improve the Blackboard service. Please stay tuned for future training workshops that will be geared to get you familiar with all that Blackboard now has to offer.

New Online Academic Catalog

The Registrar's Office is excited to announce our recent partnership with Digarc which we will use to manage our new online Academic Catalog. The catalog will be implemented over this summer. You will hear from us shortly regarding the timeline for implementation and training. In the meantime we will be send out each areas sections to begin reviewing and updating over the next two weeks. We thank you for your patience during this implementation.

Other Events this Week

May 26th (and every Friday)

Open Office Hours with Melissa Siegel
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Provost's Suite, Austin Hall
Melissa Siegel, Director of Sponsored Programs, will hold hours in the Office of the Provost every Friday from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. This is your opportunity to stop by with any and all questions about sponsored activities, programs, or grants. Please e-mail siegelm@merrimack.edu to set up an appointment or just plan on swinging by to say "hello." Melissa is excited to learn more about you and your teaching, scholarship and research interests.

Future Events

June Orientation

The Orientation Committee has been hard at work planning June Orientation and we would like to request the faculty's assistance for advising and registration. Advising will take place on **Tuesday, June 20th and Thursday, June 22nd from 9am-12pm in the Multipurpose Room of the Sakowich Campus Center.**

This year the Committee is again asking for assistance at one or both of the sessions to advise our incoming first year students. To the best of our ability, we will match students with their academic advisor or a member of their department and we will need additional assistance for those students who are undeclared. We are hoping for a minimum of two people per department with extra faculty in the larger majors but please know that ANY AND ALL faculty members are welcome to participate. As in the past, please send Mary McHugh the names of the faculty members who can be in attendance by **Monday, June 5th** at **mchughm@merrimack.edu**

There will be a small training for faculty participants before each morning session. There will be more detailed information as we get closer to orientation. If you have any questions or suggestions about June Orientation, please feel free to contact your school's representative on the Committee, Mary McHugh, Peter Ellard or Allison Pukala.

The Orientation Committee would also invite everyone to the Family Cocktail Receptions, which will be on Monday, June 19th and Wednesday, June 21st from 5:30pm – 6:30pm in the Blue Line Club.

Summer Institutional Review Board (IRB) Status

Summer 2017 Reviews

Merrimack's Institutional Review Board (IRB) will be reviewing both exempt and expedited applications throughout the summer. We are working to establish two IRB meeting dates, one in mid-to late-June and another in late August to review any proposals we receive that will require a full review. The IRB will update the community through the *Provost Briefing* when the deadlines for applications and review dates are set.

New IRB Application and Review Software

The Office of the Provost has invested in new online IRB application and review software that will improve and enhance the application and review process. More details on the new software and its use will be provided later in the summer and faculty/student training will be provided by the IRB during sessions in September. We hope to have the new software up and running by early July. During the transition to the new software, both the current application process and the new online process will be accepted.

Future *Provost Briefings* will provide additional information. If you have any questions, please contact the IRB directly at IRB@merrimack.edu

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