CLAS Computer Requirement Working Group – Minutes 9-10-15

In attendance:
- Ken Sallot
- Ata Sarajedini
- Evangeline Abraham
- Chuck Peek
- Gillian Lord
- Terry Harpold
- Amlan Biswas

Discussion about background and value/motivation. Although majority of students already have mobile devices, there is no guarantee they will. It was agreed that the value of having a mobile device helps greatly with 21st century digital scholarship.

Financial Aid Questions: How much financial aid will a student be eligible to receive for a device? If a student were to change majors to one that had higher requirements, would they be eligible for additional financial aid? – Ken will find out.

Discussion about hardware requirements in draft. Agreement to drop minimum screen size, change language to specify tablet, netbook, laptop and specify that smartphones would not meet requirement.

Discussion to emphasize that while the minimum may meet most majors, there may be a discipline that requires higher standards.

Discussion to emphasize must be able to use eLearning (Canvas). Point made that this could remove the use of clickers in the classroom – some students have had to purchase multiple different clickers.

Discussion to add security requirements to draft – items should be touched on conditions for UF Wireless (AV, SafeConnect), usage of VPN, etc.

Discussion that other universities (UNC) builds configuration support into orientation. Could potentially address some of these issues during Preview (is it already done?)

When a draft is closer to complete, it will be brought to the chairs to see if it meets their needs.

Question: when we specify the minimum requirements, can we identify the student population that already meets it? No one is sure how to do that, however the general consensus was the minimum requirements should work for the next 3-5 years. Agreement that the policy should be revisited / revised periodically.

Discussion about implementation date: potentially Fall 2016 with a grandfather clause for currently enrolled seniors.

Discussion about needing to make sure faculty are developing materials geared towards platforms students have. It was brought up that some courses develop/produce material that is not viewable without software that is not part of the proposed requirement (Flash).

Discussion about working with vendors (ex. Apple, Dell, HP) to develop CLAS student bundles that are available through the UF Bookstore.

Discussion about having a help desk representative join us at the next meeting on September 30th.

Action items:
- Ken will make minor tweaks to document (described above)
- Ken will contact Help Desk to have representative attend
- Ken will contact SFA, Engineering, and Business to find out the financial aid questions.
- Terry will work on a pre-amble draft about the value.

Next Meeting: September 30th, 2015 – 9:30AM, Pugh 210