BFC Technology Policy Committee 2024-2025

Meeting 05 (2/13/2025)

Attendee: Michael Collins, Daniel Hickey, Michele Kelmer, Anne Leftwich, Elisabeth Harris, David Taylor, Jeremy Siek, Ashley Ahlbrand, Manish Nandineni, David McDonald - Guests: Michael Mace, Mike Jenson

Agenda
1. Approval of Minutes from Meeting 04 [Mike]
2. Title II [Michael Mace and Mike Jenson]
3. Tool Finder [Michele]
4. Action items before next meeting [All]
5. Questions/Comments/Concerns

Meeting notes:
- **Meeting Introduction:** Michael Collins introduced the meeting agenda, mentioning the presence of special guests Michael Mace and Mike Jensen, who will discuss assistive technologies, accessibility regulations, and the Title 2 Task Force.
  - **Agenda Overview:** Michael Collins introduced the meeting, highlighting the presence of special guests Michael Mace and Mike Jensen. He mentioned that the focus would be on assistive technologies, accessibility regulations, and the Title 2 Task Force. He also noted that Michelle would introduce teaching technologies and the Tool Finder if time allowed.
  - **Special Guests:** Michael Collins introduced Michael Mace, the manager of the Assistive Technologies and Accessibility Center, and Mike Jensen, IU Chief Compliance Officer. They were invited to discuss regulations, technologies, and the Title 2 Task Force, providing insights into what faculty can expect and the tools available at IU.
- **Assistive Technologies and Accessibility Center:** Michael Mace, manager of the Assistive Technologies and Accessibility Center, explained the center's role in supporting assistive technology for faculty, staff, and students, including software like screen readers and Dragon Naturally Speaking.
  - **Center's Role:** Michael Mace explained that the Assistive Technologies and Accessibility Center supports assistive technology for faculty, staff, and students across the IU system, including Bloomington, Indianapolis, regional campuses, IU online, and Med schools. The center consists of eight people plus one intern.
  - **Supported Technologies:** The center supports various assistive technologies, including screen readers and Dragon Naturally Speaking. They handle the purchase and support of this software, ensuring it meets accommodation needs.
  - **Alternative Formats:** The center also provides alternative formats for students who cannot read standard books due to disabilities. They convert materials into audio formats or other computer-readable formats, working closely with the accessible Educational Services office.
  - **Software Evaluation:** Michael Mace mentioned that the center now evaluates all software coming in for teaching and learning to ensure accessibility compliance. This includes reviewing and supporting tools like Anthology Ally.
- **Title 2 Regulations:** Michael Mace discussed the new Title 2 regulations, which set minimum standards for all online content used in teaching and learning, emphasizing the importance of compliance to avoid civil litigation.
  - **Regulation Overview:** Michael Mace explained that the new Title 2 regulations, effective April 24, 2024, set minimum standards for all online content used in teaching and

learning. These regulations apply to all content in the learning management system, including anything used for teaching that is not in a specific archive.

- o **Compliance Importance:** Michael Mace emphasized the importance of compliance with these regulations to avoid civil litigation. He noted that while the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights enforces these rules, most actions come from civil litigation due to the clarified standards.
- o **Federal and State Regulations:** Michael Mace clarified that these are federal regulations, but there are also state regulations that require the state to purchase accessible electronic information technology. He mentioned Indiana Code 4-13, which governs state requirements.
- o **Exceptions:** Michael Mace outlined exceptions to the Title 2 regulations, including archived web content, pre-existing conventional documents, and content posted by third parties not under contract. He referred to this as the "Facebook rule," where the responsibility is for the accessibility of the platform, not the content posted by third parties.
- o **Impact on Faculty:** Michael Mace stressed that faculty are responsible for ensuring their content meets the new requirements, including accurate captions, audio descriptions, and avoiding scanned or photocopied documents. He mentioned the "seven simple steps" as a subset of the rules that faculty need to follow.

- **Canvas Accessibility:** Michael Mace highlighted the accessibility improvements in Canvas, including the upcoming release of new quizzes, credentials, and catalog features, and the need for archiving older content.
  - o **New Quizzes:** Michael Mace discussed the upcoming release of new quizzes in Canvas, expected to be fully accessible by summer 2025. He mentioned that while the new quizzes will still include the multiple answers format, they are working on improving the algorithm for fair grading.
  - o **Credentials and Catalog:** Michael Mace mentioned the introduction of credentials (badger) and catalog features in Canvas, which are also expected to be fully accessible by summer 2025. These features will enhance the platform's usability and compliance with accessibility standards.
  - o **Archiving Content:** Michael Mace highlighted the need for archiving older content in Canvas to manage storage and ensure accessibility. He mentioned that content not actively used for teaching should be archived to reduce the load on the system and improve scanning efficiency.
  - o **Faculty Concerns:** Jeremy raised concerns about the multiple answers question format in new quizzes, noting student complaints about the grading algorithm. Michael Mace acknowledged the issue and promised to discuss it with the Canvas team to explore possible improvements.
- **Kaltura Accessibility:** Michael Mace described the accessibility enhancements in Kaltura, such as the new V7 player, improved captioning engine, and upcoming audio description features.
  - o **V7 Player:** Michael Mace described the new V7 player in Kaltura, which includes enhanced accessibility features such as the ability to see transcripts on any embedded player and the option to pop the player out for better viewing.
  - o **Captioning Engine:** Michael Mace highlighted the improved captioning engine in Kaltura, which uses Whisper AI for higher accuracy. He noted that while the new engine provides better captions, it will not retroactively update old videos, and users will need to reinitialize videos for improved captions.

- o **Audio Description:** Michael Mace mentioned the upcoming audio description feature in the V7 player, which will provide descriptions of visual content in videos. This feature will help users understand the visual context of videos, especially those with visual impairments.
- o **Faculty Questions:** Jeremy asked about the creation of audio descriptions, expressing concern about the effort required for technical content. Michael Mace explained that while audio descriptions are not automatically generated, many videos may not require them if the content is already well-described verbally. He emphasized the importance of judgment calls and offered support from his team to evaluate specific needs.
- **E-Text Platforms:** Michael Mace mentioned the evaluation of various e-text platforms like Pearson MyLab, McGraw Hill Connect, and others to ensure compliance with accessibility standards.
- **Faculty Responsibilities:** Michael Mace emphasized that faculty are responsible for ensuring their content meets accessibility requirements, including accurate captions, audio descriptions, and avoiding scanned or photocopied documents.
  - o **Content Compliance:** Michael Mace stressed that faculty are responsible for ensuring their content meets accessibility requirements. This includes providing accurate captions for video content, ensuring audio descriptions are available when necessary, and avoiding the use of scanned or photocopied documents in Canvas.
  - o **Support and Resources:** Michael Mace mentioned that the Assistive Technologies and Accessibility Center is available to help faculty with accessibility compliance. He encouraged faculty to reach out for consultations and support in making their content accessible.
  - o **Training and Tools:** Michael Mace highlighted the availability of training and tools to assist faculty in meeting accessibility requirements. He mentioned the "seven simple steps" as a guide for faculty to follow and emphasized the importance of using accessibility checkers and other tools to ensure compliance.
- **Training and Support:** Michael Mace and Mike Jensen discussed the availability of training and support for faculty, including the seven simple steps, ADA for faculty, and improving canvas courses.
- **Communication and Implementation:** Michael Collins and Mike Jensen stressed the importance of effectively communicating the new regulations and requirements to faculty, suggesting a shorter presentation for the full BFC and departmental-level discussions.
- **Faculty Concerns:** Daniel and other participants expressed concerns about the time and effort required to comply with the new regulations, emphasizing the need for clear communication, training, and support.
- **Suggestions from the Committee:**
  - o Michael Mace's team could create a 15-minute video summarizing the Title 2 requirements and responsibilities for faculty to use in departmental meetings.
  - o Michael Mace's team could develop and distribute job aids and KB documents with short videos on how to perform specific accessibility tasks like adding alt text.
  - o Suggest effective ways to communicate the Title 2 requirements and responsibilities to all faculty members.
  - o Consider presenting a shorter version of the Title 2 compliance presentation to the full BFC to ensure all faculty are informed.
  - o Encourage faculty to reach out to atac@iu.edu for accessibility consultations and support. (Michael Mace)