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University of Utah Faculty:

**Do you know what the
Technology Assisted
Curriculum Center
(TAC Center) has to offer?**

The primary mission of the TAC Center is to help University of Utah faculty members enhance their students' educational experience through the application of technology. As fall semester draws near, the time is right for a refresher about the many services the TAC Center has to offer.

Multi-media Production

The TAC Center operates a high-end, self-service, multi-media studio that can be used to create graphics, digital video, web pages, and more. Many instructors use overhead slides or power point presentations in their courses. These can be converted to digital presentations. In turn, digital presentations may be enhanced by adding graphics, narration or other audio, and video clips. All of these course enhancing resources can be made available via the web. The TAC Center's studio can be scheduled, in advance, by contacting Lara Kandolin at 585-0536.

Course Management

WebCT is a web-based course management software package licensed by the University of Utah for use by University faculty members. Each semester, approximately 800 University courses use WebCT to augment – not replace – traditional lecture-based instruction. Over 16,000 students use this program for courses in over 70 departments. Instructors may use as few or as many of the tools included in WebCT as they deem appropriate. Some faculty members post their syllabus, link to course reserves and other library resources, and use the on-line discussion tool. Others post digital archives, lectures, audio files, and PowerPoint presentations, and even exams for their students. Some use WebCT to deliver fully on-line courses. The choice is yours – WebCT is your tool.

A 2-hour one-on-one training session provided by the TAC Center will get you started with WebCT. If you'd like to schedule a training session, contact Rebekah Callor at rcallor@tacc.utah.edu or 585-0065 today.

TACC also supports O-LMS, an open source learning management system developed right here at the University of Utah in full compliance with national standards for portability and code sharing. For more information see www.psych.utah.edu/learn/olms/.

TAC Center Services Cont'd

Funding Opportunities

The TAC Center can help fund faculty development awards. When available, all colleges, departments, and faculty at the University are eligible to apply for these fellowships, which can be up to \$5000. The funds are intended primarily to provide teaching release time for faculty members to develop fully online courses. Funds may also be used to support teaching assistants, who, under the direction of a faculty member, may prepare online classes over the course of a semester.

Ensure Original Work

New at the TAC Center this fall is a subscription service called "Turnitin." Turnitin is the acknowledged leader in online plagiarism prevention, whose "... products promote originality in student work, improve student writing and research skills, encourage collaborative learning, and save valuable instructor time." The Internet is a very effective learning tool as evidenced by the tremendous growth in the use of WebCT courseware at the U. With all of its benefits, the Internet has also increased concern among many instructors regarding the ease with which students can use Internet resources instead of producing original work. Many see a decline in original writing and an increase in plagiarism. For this reason, the Academic Senate passed a resolution this year, asking the University to provide access to anti-plagiarism software or services. The Campus Information Technology Council and the

Administration agreed to fund the acquisition of "Turnitin" service, which will be available to all faculty members. Use of this service is not required and is at the complete discretion of the instructor. The service may be viewed as an educational awareness exercise which may encourage students to do original thinking and writing rather than just cutting and pasting from the Internet and other sources.

To use Turnitin, simply acquire an account from the TAC Center for each course in which the service will be used. How you use Turnitin is your choice. You may elect to have your students return their work to you, and you may submit the work to www.turnitin.com to receive reports which describe the originality of the work. Or you may require your students to submit their papers directly to the Turnitin service. You may choose to allow the student to view the same report that you will receive (which many consider the preferred use of the service).

Contact Alison Regan at 1-3883 or Michael Whitchurch at 5-0535 to set up your Turnitin account(s).

Training

There are many resources available to you. The TAC Center is there to assist you in your efforts to integrate technology into your instruction. Please take advantage of workshops, individual or group training sessions, and other training opportunities, to familiarize yourself with these services.

You'll find more information on all of these services at www.tacc.utah.edu.