Educational Technology
Cross-Institutional Review

PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COUNCIL
JANUARY 9, 2013
Technology plays an increasing role in learning and teaching

- Course management systems (e.g., Moodle)
- Access to library resources
- Online publishing
- Omnipresence of mobile devices
- Wider range of course delivery modes (F2F, Online, Blended, Flipped); all dependent to some degree on educational technology
- E-textbooks (AVED announcement to adopt 40 open access textbooks)
In 2010, a decision was made to adopt Moodle as the university’s single supported course management system. Moodle use tripled in three years.
Increased demand for technology based aids to teaching and learning

- Clickers
- Streaming, imbedded video in lectures
- Social media (wikis, blogs, online forums/discussion groups)
- Multimedia/collaboration/videoconferencing tools
- Test scoring software
- Computer-assisted language instruction
- Online tutorials (e.g., Khan Academy)
- Use of e-portfolios
- Emergence of MOOCs
Objective 14: “To support further development of distributed learning as part of the UVic tradition and as a mechanism for increasing access to higher education

- Distance delivery has expanded at both the undergraduate and graduate level
- Although currently only HSD has a significant number of online courses and programs, many other faculties have expressed interest and added online courses (Education, Engineering, Humanities, Science, Social Sciences)
Impressive Growth in On-Line Graduate Programs in HSD
Why consider expanding online offerings?

- Many UVic students take courses through TRU-OL/Athabasca
- Many students cannot be in Victoria for a term, are on co-op, or are near completion but cannot access on campus courses
- Educational technology increases support for internationalization efforts and graduate student enrolment
- Distributed/blended learning attracts mid-career students looking for opportunities to retrain or add to their knowledge and competencies in a new or related field
Benefits of Incorporating Educational Technology into Pedagogy

- Flexible learning platforms can increase recruitment and retention of a broad student demographic
- Enhanced student engagement with instructors, peers and the material
- Provides for greater individualization of learning
- Consistent with ‘greener’ approaches to instruction
- Enhances our community engagement and outreach
- Provides greater flexibility and capacity to respond to educational opportunities and imperatives
Review of Ed Tech identified significant gaps and challenges

- Support and training for using and incorporating educational technologies is not effective or efficient
  - Scattered service silos
  - Faculty do not know where to go for support
  - Insufficient staffing and investment in infrastructure

- Governance has not adequately addressed the investment in educational technology

- No Strategic Plan for technology supported learning and innovation
Recommendations

- Create an integrated and centralized resource for the adoption and implementation of educational technology that is available to all units
- Reorganize and deploy current staff to better and more equitably meet the needs of faculty, staff and students
- Develop a leadership position in this area reporting to VPAC
- Identify effective routes to resource prioritization and allocation in educational technology