

SCEDIT Meeting Minutes-Senate Copy

Dec 13, 2024 2:55-4:00 PM Eastern Time

Attendance: Victoria Pilato, Cynthia Davidson, Simeon Ananou, Matt Reuter, Christopher Chan, Shyam Sharma, Rose Tirotta-Esposito, Diana Voss, Caterina Reed, Alaa Abd-El-Hafez, Keri Hollander, Brenda Anderson, Will Farr, Moises Eisenberg, Scott Campbell, Yersson Gaona

The meeting minutes from November 15th were approved.

Subcommittee Nominations and AI Concerns

The Committee discussed the subcommittee nominations and the representative for the Digital Governance Framework group. Anyone interested in serving on these subcommittees was encouraged to reach out to the lead members. The sub-committee leads agreed to start developing the charge for their subcommittees before the next meeting.

Concerns Over NotebookLM Tool and AI Adoption in Education Discussed

A member of SCEDIT expressed concerns about the readiness of the educational community to fully utilize the new NotebookLM tool, citing its potential to undermine the development of critical thinking and literacy skills in students. They highlighted the tool's limitations in understanding complex ideas and its reliance on simplistic language, which could hinder students' ability to engage deeply with texts. They also criticized the promotional language used in the tool's announcement, suggesting it was generated by AI. They emphasized the importance of students developing foundational intellectual, social, and emotional skills and warned that the tool's use could be detrimental to the university's central mission, particularly in general education and humanities. The committee agreed to devote part of the next meeting to this issue.

The potential risks and benefits of using AI tools in education were also discussed, drawing parallels to introducing a new, high-speed technology into an existing infrastructure. The need for caution and careful testing before widespread adoption was emphasized, citing the example of classroom experience where students' perceptions of AI tools shifted from enthusiasm to skepticism as they gained more experience. More concerns were raised about faculty abuse of AI and the potential for students to become

overly reliant on these tools, stating a belief that Stony Brook is ahead of the curve in terms of AI adoption, but still needs to be cautious in its approach.

Responses addressing AI Disruption in Higher Ed

The challenges posed by disruptive technologies, particularly AI, to the values of higher education were discussed, highlighting issues such as testing boundaries of authorship, unintentional disclosure of sensitive information, and the retention of intellectual property. It was also noted that many institutions, including Stony Brook, are struggling with these issues. He emphasized the importance of awareness and the need to protect intellectual property, particularly in the context of AI tools like NotebookLM. He also mentioned the prevalence of plagiarism among higher education students and the need to tackle this issue.

NotebookLM Rollout Security and Privacy Concerns

Concerns were expressed about the rollout of NotebookLM, particularly regarding the security and privacy measures in place. It was questioned whether the information uploaded to the NotebookLM would be trained on the data and if this was being communicated to users. It was suggested that university leaders should bring together pedagogical, technological, and practical experts to build a community of practice. A grant was received to build a modular training model for supporting students and faculty in the next year.

AI in Education: Pedagogy and Adaptation

The meeting focused on the need for a more comprehensive discussion about the use of AI in education, particularly in relation to pedagogy. Dedicating a significant portion of a future meeting to this topic, emphasizing the importance of faculty involvement in the rollout and messaging of new tools was agreed upon. Stressing the need to frame the conversation effectively and infuse the language of pedagogy. A member emphasized the importance of prioritizing education over technology. An analogy between AI and the handheld calculator, suggesting that AI could change how we teach and what we expect from students. The team agreed on the need to adapt to these changes and reevaluate their teaching methods. A member initiated a discussion about the use of AI in education, specifically focusing on the Learning Outcomes for GAI Literacies published by the Modern Language Association and the Composition and Communication

Committee, which was shared with the committee. It was suggested that the group could use this document to form their own guidance checklist.

Data Privacy, Turnitin, Academic Judiciary

The next discussion was about the Senate Academic Judiciary Committee's concerns regarding student data privacy and the use of anti-plagiarism and anti-cheating tools. It was suggested that the committee should liaise with the Senate Academic Judiciary Committee to understand the pros and cons of revisiting the decision to not share student papers with outside institutions. A member added that the function for asking for papers has been temporarily turned off and that the requests are being held in an email. It was also mentioned that the FERPA rules have changed in 2023, which is causing confusion. The group agreed to consider the possibility of having a staff member filter through the requests and redact any information that shouldn't be shared.

Implementing Data Analytics Concentration

The undergraduate representative proposed the implementation of a data analytics concentration within the College of Business at Stony Brook University. He argued that data analytics is a growing field relevant to nearly every industry and that Stony Brook, a flagship school, has the resources to support such a program. He also mentioned that other top universities already have undergraduate programs in data analytics. However, he noted that the current information systems major at Stony Brook is too niche and does not fully reflect the wide-ranging nature of data analytics. Stony Brook now has a new data science degree, jointly run between computer science and applied math in the College of Engineering. Committee members provided some feedback and questions. The student will be provided with the contact information for the College of Business regarding his data analytics concentration proposal. A committee member mentioned that the College of Business is offering a new degree that might be of interest to the student representative.

The progress of CELT's polling software project was discussed.

Next steps

Develop mission statements for their respective subcommittees (AI Advisory and Tech Advisory on Academic Integrity) before the next meeting.

A SCEDIT member will represent the committee on the University Digital Governance Framework group.

Schedule a significant portion of the next meeting to discuss AI tools and their rollout.

A member is to liaise with the Senate Academic Judiciary Committee regarding student data privacy concerns with plagiarism detection software.

The Vvox polling tool for faculty use will continue to be worked on.

Meeting was adjourned at 4 pm EST.