From:	John Dixon
Sent:	Thursday, July 20, 2017 2:07 PM
To:	Eric L. Garris
Subject:	SACS 3.11.3

Eric,

Online courses were first offered by FMU in fall 2011 and has grown from three undergraduate courses to 92 undergraduate and 64 graduate courses. In July 2012, FMU upgraded its Internet connection from a 100 MB connection to a 1 GB connection and implemented a discreet redundant connection for backup to accommodate and support the continued growth. Spirit Telecom provides the main and backup Internet services with Spectrum (formerly Time Warner Cable) providing the "last mile" link to Charlotte on our primary connection, while Spirit provides a direct discreet path for our secondary connection to Atlanta. It has since added four new Dell Servers to its virtual server environment and has plans to upgrade its network storage this fiscal year to 30 TB and gain an additional 10 TB of storage.

Francis Marion University's primary distance education offering is delivered through Blackboard applications. Blackboard runs in a VMware virtual server environment that lives in the FMU server farm. The VMware environment is made up of three ESXi hosts. The current Blackboard production server is built on server Windows 2008r2 64bit. The current memory configuration is 16384 MB and the current CPU configuration is two virtual sockets with four cores each bringing it to eight cores total. For storage, the server has a 50GB C: drive, a 550GB E: drive, and a 1TB F: drive which are all hosted on a Dell Equalogic PS6210X. Blackboard connects to FMU's network stack on a Cisco 4507 core switch. The primary video infrastructure used to record lectures is through Blackboard Collaborate and stored on Blackboard's servers in their Virginia datacenter.

Each summer training is provided to faculty on using Blackboard Collaborate to provide online courses to its students.

FMU's Campus Technology unit is a centralized technology organization led by a Chief Information Officer, reporting to the Vice President for Administration. There are 18 positions including professional staff in the fields of networking and communications, security, systems, operations, instructional technology, media services, programming, desktop support, and administration.

Regards,

John

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