Streamlining Instructional Technology in a College of Nursing

Purpose

The University of Colorado, College of Nursing identified a need for a centralized faculty decision-making forum to address instructional technology needs and requests. The shared-governance process raises awareness of coexisting resource, reduces duplication of similar technology solutions, establishes a mechanism to facilitate section and need for new technology, and achieves consensus through multistakeholder discussions.

Background

Nursing education relies on the application of health technologies to facilitate the development of student knowledge and clinically competent skills.[1] The associated integration of advanced instructional technology has led to the evolution in learning modalities, pedagogical foundations, faculty responsibilities, and learning outcomes.[2] Coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, the long-term role of digital technologies have entrenched nursing education.[3,4]

Methods

The College Dean established an Educational Technology (ET) Committee representing each nursing specialty program, faculty support group, finance, and information technology departments for the inaugural year. The Specialty Director for the Health Care Informatics program and the lead Instructional Design Specialist were appointed Co-Chairs. The Committee meets monthly to establish a standardized process, identify deliverables, and vet faculty requests for education software and technologies.
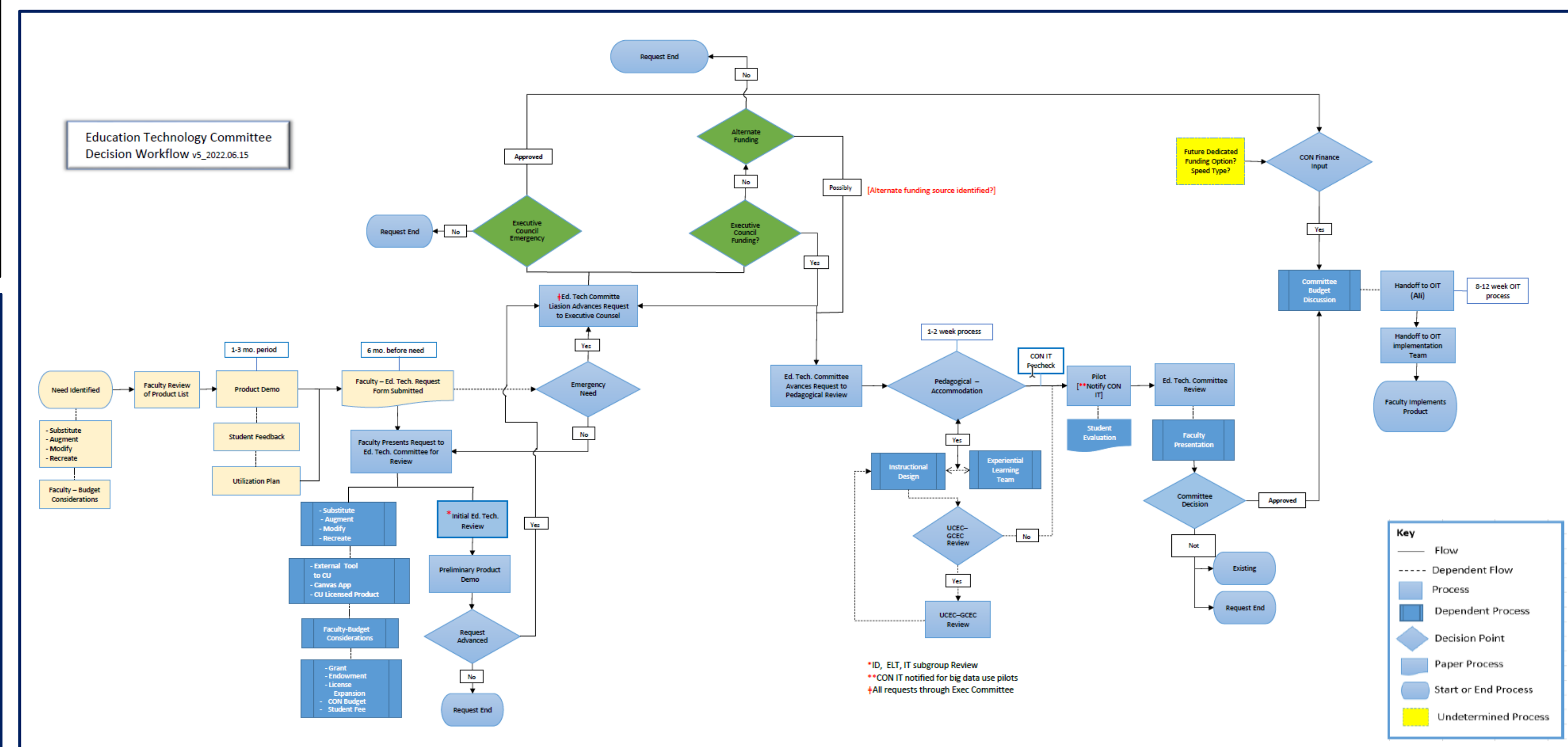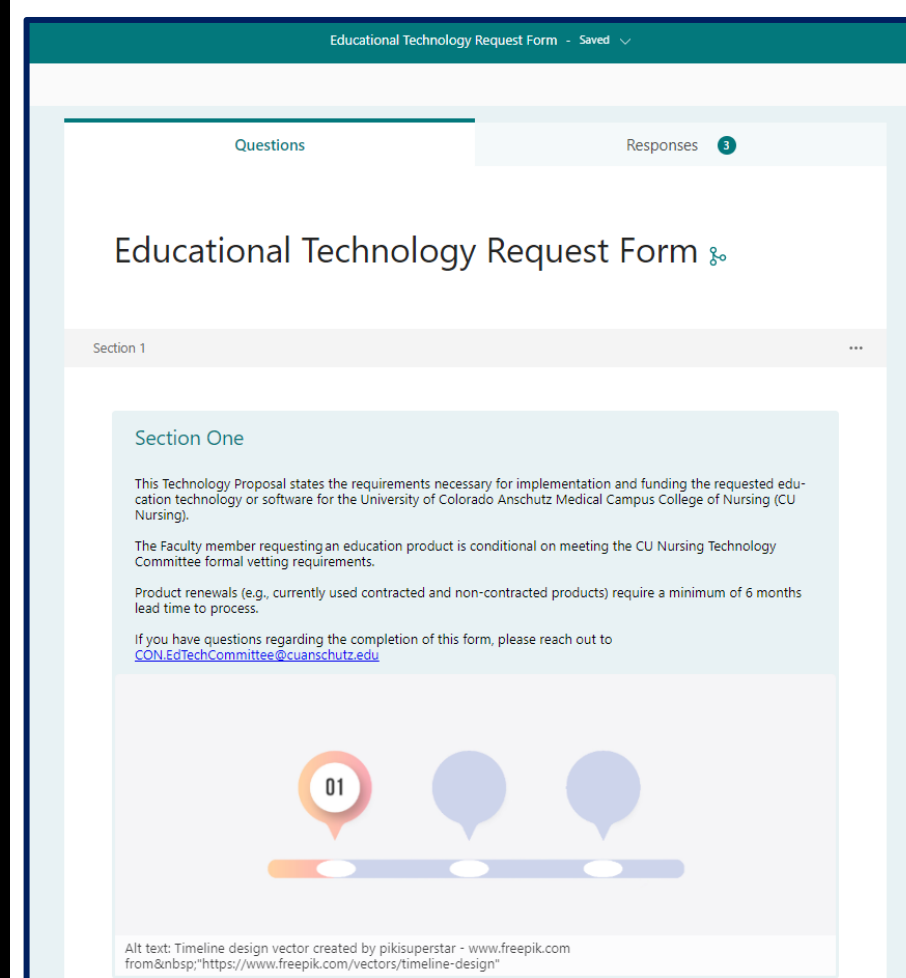
Results

Inaugural year deliverables include the creation of a Committee Charter, an evolving decision request workflow, electronic request form, and a digital product integration board. A total of 9 faculty requests were submitted with 3 requests approved with funding, two approved with grant funding or without fees, one approved without funding, and three pending reviews.

Conclusion

The ET Committee provides an important service by reducing duplicate instructional technology and increasing utilization of existing programs. Committee persistence continues under the Office of the Dean with funding options under consideration.

Practice Implications

- Committee persistence continues under the Office of the Dean
- Funding options under consideration.

References

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