NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Forman Christian College (A Chartered University)

March 2026

Why Technology Matters to You

We've all been there: You walk into a classroom ready to deliver a vital lecture, only to find the HDMI cable is missing, or you are a student trying to download a research paper while the campus Wi-Fi fluctuates. These aren't just minor technical glitches; they are barriers to learning. As the rise of Artificial Intelligence begins to reshape the global academic landscape, the need for a seamless, forward-thinking digital environment at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) has never been more urgent. This is where the Academic Technology Committee (ATC) steps in. Our mission is to ensure that the technology powering FCCU doesn't just work—it excels. We act as the bridge between the complex world of IT infrastructure and the daily reality of the classroom, advocating for solutions that empower both faculty and students to thrive in a digital-first world.

Fall 2025: A Season of Connection and Strategy

The Fall 2025 semester marked a pivotal shift in how technology is managed on campus. Through a strengthened partnership with the Vice Rector Office (VRO), the ATC now enjoys a direct line to university leadership. This collaboration, supported by Vice Rector Dr. Doug Trimble and Associate Vice Rector for Faculty Affairs Dr. Hee Sook Song, ensures that our technological needs are backed by the university's strategic vision and budgetary priorities, moving beyond simple administrative coordination. To better understand the lived experience of our community, the committee hosted a "Lunch with the ATC" on November 5. Rather than relying on spreadsheets, we listened to faculty share the "make or break" moments of their teaching day. The feedback was clear: while high-tech smart boards are a leap forward, the simple availability of a working HDMI cable or an accessible power socket is what truly keeps a lecture on track. Faculty helpfully identified points of concern for us.

To channel the committee's efforts for the remainder of the term, the ATC identified four high-priority initiatives. These goals are designed to deliver tangible improvements to our digital environment.

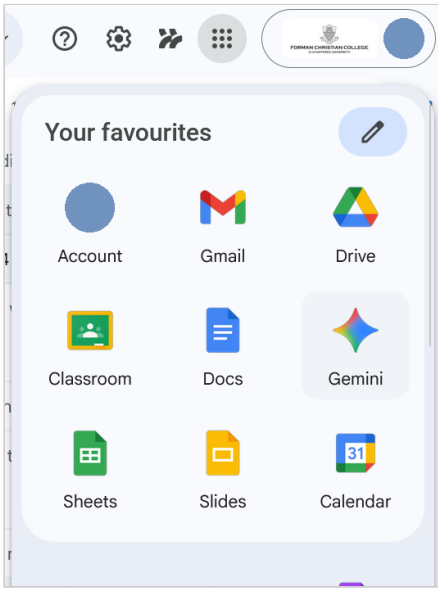
- **AI Practices:** Led by Adeel Khalid, Ayesha Fareed, and Mian Waqar Mustafa, this initiative focuses on establishing solid standards and practices for Generative AI. A high priority is to monitor and improve FCCU's AI readiness in view of policy guidelines and available technology.
- **Classroom Technology:** Led by Daniel Lanz, Sumaira Akram, and Muhammad Zubair Yousaf, this team is evaluating the deployment of both "smart" and conventional tech. Their focus is on the essentials—ensuring hardware like HDMI cables is consistently available.
- **IT Ticketing System:** Led by Syed Shoaib Nazir, Faiza Tasneem, and Umber Nisar, this goal aims to improve the effectiveness of resolving technical issues.
- **Wi-Fi Access:** Led by Abdul Jalil Khan and Asma Basharat, this initiative is dedicated to ensuring reliable high-speed internet across campus.

Two New AI Features in Google Workspace

by Daniel Lanz

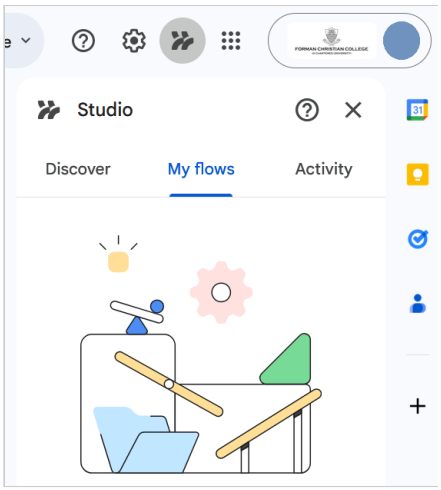
Two new features were recently added to our Google accounts. Check them out!

Gemini: Your Chatbot with Data Protection



You can now use Gemini on your university Google account, so you're no longer limited to your personal account for that. Using Gemini with your FC College account has several advantages. Most importantly, it offers better data protection. Your chats are not used for model training. Workspace accounts also come with more generous rate limits. And you can easily add files from your Google Drive to any chat.

Workspace Studio: Beyond the Chatbot



Unlike a standard chat interface where you simply ask questions, Google Workspace Studio is an "action engine" that works behind the scenes across your entire account. It allows you to build automated "Flows" that monitor your apps—like Gmail or Drive—and perform multi-step tasks for you in real-time, such as automatically summarizing a new syllabus and adding its due dates directly to your calendar.

BoodleBox: An Academic AI Platform

by Abdul Jalil Khan

The ATC recently tested BoodleBox, supporting the administration's efforts to explore AI platforms for academic use. BoodleBox integrates multiple premium AI models (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and more) into a single, secure environment. Rather than automating learning, it facilitates meaningful human-AI collaboration to enhance critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Key Features

- Multiple AI Models: Access diverse AI capabilities in one platform
- Secure & Private: Built with institutional-grade security for academic integrity
- Collaborative Tools: GroupChat for team projects and peer collaboration
- Context Awareness: Maintains conversation history for deeper engagement
- Data Analysis: Perform statistical work and research analysis
- Custom Bots: Create specialized AI assistants with domain-specific knowledge

Academic Applications

Students use BoodleBox for literature reviews, data analysis, writing assistance, problem-solving, and group projects. Educators leverage it to monitor AI usage transparently, create engaging learning experiences, and develop student competencies in AI literacy.

Benefits

BoodleBox offers a free plan that includes access to many of its features.

For Students: Develop practical AI skills applicable to future careers, enhance research capabilities, and prepare for an AI-driven workforce while maintaining academic integrity.

For Educators: Transform teaching with collaborative tools, monitor student progress transparently, and customize learning experiences with specialized knowledge.

The ATC is always open to receive feedback on the tools you are using for AI. Have you used any platforms like BoodleBox? We warmly welcome your comments.

Meet the Academic Technology Committee

The ATC is composed of dedicated faculty, staff, and student members from diverse academic backgrounds, all working to improve your digital experience:

Dr. Abdul Jalil Khan

Abdul Jalil Khan is an Associate Professor of Economics. His countless contributions to the work of the committee include providing a faculty perspective on pedagogical needs, facilitating coordination between academic staff, IT, and administration, and advising on ethical, accessible, and academically sound use of technology, including identifying current limitations and recommending targeted upgrades to support effective teaching and learning.

Dr. Adeel Khalid

Adeel Khalid is an Assistant Professor in English and a recipient of prestigious international fellowships, including the Global Cultural Relations Program and the IWM Vienna Fellowship. His research explores the intersection of digital media writing and multiliteracies, providing the committee with valuable academic insight into how digital humanities can transform contemporary scholarship.

Ms. Amna Ehtisham

Amna Ehtisham is a senior undergraduate student of Mass Communication and the student representative on the Academic Technology Committee. Her research interests include digital literacy and representation studies in media.

Mr. Anthony Richards

Anthony Richards serves as the Chief Information Officer and an ex-officio member of the committee. He provides the technical leadership and institutional oversight necessary to align the committee's digital initiatives with the university's broader infrastructure and strategic vision.

Ms. Asma Basharat

Asma Basharat is a Senior Lecturer in Computer Science and an HEC-certified Master Trainer. With over 12 years of experience in information security and machine learning, she brings a deep technical understanding of the security protocols and automated systems required for a modern campus.

Ms. Ayesha Fareed

Ayesha Fareed is an Assistant Professor in the Writing and Communication Program with 15 years of experience at FCCU. She offers critical insights into the intersection of communication pedagogy and technological integration, ensuring that our digital tools effectively support student expression and clarity.

Dr. Daniel Lanz

Daniel Lanz is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies. While his primary research focuses on ancient texts, he is also comfortable in the digital realm. From leveraging Python for corpus linguistics to vain attempts at automating tedious tasks, he has seen the highs and lows of technology's contributions in academia. A scatterbrained academic by day and avid coder by night, Dr. Daniel is dedicated to finding high-quality, practical solutions that serve both faculty and students.

Ms. Faiza Tasneem

Faiza Tasneem is an Assistant Professor in the School of Management. She brings 18 years of expertise in people management and talent development to the committee, helping us navigate the human side of technological change and professional growth.

Dr. Mian Waqar Mustafa

Dr. Mian Waqar Mustafa is an Assistant Professor in Pharmacy. He contributes a strong background in health sciences and clinical research methodology, ensuring that our technological strategies address the specialized data and laboratory needs of the scientific community.

Dr. Mubashar Mushtaq

Dr. Mubashar Mushtaq is an Associate Professor and the Chairperson of Computer Science. An ex-officio member with 20 years of experience in multimedia networks, he provides the high-level technical expertise necessary to optimize our campus network performance.

Dr. Muhammad Zubair Yousaf

Dr. Muhammad Zubair Yousaf is a Professor in the KAM School of Life Sciences. He provides critical perspectives on the advanced technological and computational needs required to sustain and advance high-level scientific research at the university.

Dr. Rukhsana Zia

Dr. Rukhsana Zia is the Head of the Center for Learning and Teaching and an ex-officio member of the committee. She ensures that all technology adoption is pedagogically sound and remains focused on supporting faculty development and student success.

Ms. Sumaira Akram

Sumaira Akram is a Lecturer in Environmental Sciences. She contributes a specialized scientific perspective on data collection and monitoring technologies, helping the committee evaluate tools that support both classroom instruction and field research.

Dr. Syed Shoaib Nazir

Dr. Syed Shoaib Nazir is an Associate Professor in the School of Management. He has 25 years of experience managing IT infrastructure and multi-territorial technology projects, bringing a wealth of strategic project management expertise to our campus initiatives.

Ms. Umber Nisar

Umber Nisar is an Assistant Professor in Computer Science. Her research focuses on Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, providing the committee with the foresight needed to evaluate the future impact of computational tools on our academic environment.

Looking Ahead: Join the Conversation

As the ATC approaches the end of its 3-year term, we strive to move beyond assessment and finalize policy recommendations. In addition to our flagship goals, we are also working on better ways to keep you informed, including more conversations with our key stakeholders — faculty, staff, students — and updates through the Daily Buzz. Technology on campus is a shared journey. As we work to build the infrastructure of tomorrow, we invite you to stay engaged. How can we better use the digital tools at our disposal to not just teach and learn, but to innovate? The future of our campus experience is something we are building together.