

Programs 2020 Q2 Update

All active teams within the department continue to hold regular meetings to help facilitate their work and goals. All team leaders are attending the monthly department meetings, to be shortly accompanied by the newly elected working group leader of the Educational Outreach WG.

During April and May, Jaz worked on a document outlining the responsibilities of team leaders of Joomla teams and working groups. Following a feedback phase with all team leaders, it has now been approved as an official OSM policy by a unanimous vote of the board. One of the main aims of the policy is to provide more structure to the role of a team leader and their associated responsibilities, but also to provide a useful resource for handovers when a new team leader is elected.

Assistant Team Leaders have now been invited to attend the monthly department meetings, and have been added to the department's Google Group to provide them with access to the relevant resources.

Jaz asked all members and contributors of each team to complete a membership survey, with the aim of helping them approve some self-governed rules about the membership of their teams. Following completion of the survey, the team's profile pages on the Volunteer Portal and the membership of the Google Groups were cleaned up. A folder within the Program Department's Google Drive was created for each team so that they have a place to store all documents and related resources.

During recent department meetings, Jaz worked with each of the team leaders on their budget requests for the coming financial year. After the requests were collated, the group reviewed them and worked together to trim the requested amounts, partly due to the current global crisis that is affecting the project's income. The second pass of the figures reduced the total value to \$9000, less than half of the original total. The bulk of the approved budget allows for a joint sprint of the JCP and VET teams to take place in The Netherlands in Q1/2 2021 if the travel restrictions then allow such meetups. A small amount was also budgeted for volunteer recognition as part of VET's remit.

Joomla Certification Team (JCP)

The team continues to work on upgrading the examination platform to a Joomla based LMS, Shika by TechJoomla. The team hopes to work with TechJoomla to resolve the current issues with the Shika setup so that the implementation can progress.

The team is continuing to streamline the Certifications and Exam websites by reviewing all pages and extensions in use. Jaz worked with Wilco to create a new Certified Users Directory,

which is now live on the platform. Roland has updated the Joomla Volunteer Portal to directly link volunteer profiles to the new directory for those who have passed the exam.

Almost all of the functionality has now been migrated to the Certification website, meaning that when the new LMS is implemented the Exam website can be removed as it will then be redundant.

There have been no exams held during this quarter due to the lockdown mandated by the COVID pandemic in several countries. In the past couple of weeks, there has been some interest in holding exams now that the 'lockdown' has been partially lifted in various countries.

Volunteer Engagement Team (VET)

Some members of the team have recently attended a couple of online events with the aim of increasing awareness about the team's activities.

Each month, Jaz has been preparing an article 'Community Openings' for the Joomla Community Magazine to help team leaders fill vacant positions within their teams.

The team is evaluating ways to improve the onboarding process, starting with suggesting some adjustments to the 'Help Wanted' page on the Volunteer Portal. The team continues to help potential new Joomlaers in finding the right team, and to help them feel a part of our community.

Educational Outreach Working Group (JEO)

Todd Woodward has recently been elected as the new leader of this Working Group and is starting to hold regular meetings. Todd will attend his first Programs Department monthly meeting as working group leader in July 2020.

The Working Group is active and excited about developing methods and materials for anyone who wishes to conduct educational events using Joomla to teach site building. They are defining specific tasks toward that goal, including looking into creating a space where these materials and additional information can be gathered and shared.

Event Traveller Programme (JET)

This team continues to remain inactive, but will be restarted in the run up to an event if JET funds are approved.