

IUPUI Faculty Council Committee Annual Report 2009/10

Committee Name: Technology

Chair: Andy Gavrin

Secretary: None

Members: Ardemagni, Enrica (SLA), Baldwin, Dan (E&T), Gavrin, Andy (Science), Ironside, Pam (Nursing), Karrazi, Hadi (Informatics), Lee, Suk-Hee (Medicine: Biochemistry), Mahoui, Malika (Informatics), Ney, Michael (Medicine: Surgery), Whipple, Elizabeth (Medicine), Burk, Brenda (University Library), Clack, James (IUPU-C), Gushrowski, Barbara (Dentistry), Justice, Connie (E&T), Kowolik, Joan (Dentistry), Kubek, Mike (Medicine), Magee, Paula (Education), Morzorati, Sandra (Medicine), Murday, Kimmaree (SLA), Roberts, Michele (Science), Upton, Thom (SLA)

Liaisons: Elmore, Garland (UITs) (**Administrative Liaison**), Lay, Kathy (**Executive Committee Liaison**)

Meeting Recorder: Theresa Walsh (UITs)

Action Items and Status:

1. Monitoring University IT Security Policies

Since 2004/05, the Technology Committee has been working closely with the Information Policy Office (IPO) of Indiana University in reviewing various IT related policies and helping IPO in a rather lengthy process of developing and receiving feedback from several stakeholders through a number of iteration cycles, and finally receiving official approval from the Board of Trustees on these policies. These policies and others related to IT issues are available online at <http://informationpolicy.iu.edu/policies/university.shtml> Glossary items referred to in the policy may be found at <https://informationsecurity.iu.edu/program/glossary>

a. ISPP-24 Web Site Privacy

Eric Cosens and Merri Beth Lavignino presented the first draft of this policy at the December meeting of the committee, and a second draft at the April meeting. This second draft was accompanied by a demonstration of a draft “web site privacy notice generator.” A Non-production version of this generator is available online <https://informationpolicy.iu.edu/privacynotice/>. The committee made several suggestions, including the addition of a definition for “web-based research” be added to the glossary. The committee also discussed the lack of a privacy notice on the Oncourse login page (this has been remedied).

b. ISPP-25 Information Governance

Eric Cosens and Merri Beth Lavignino presented the second draft of this policy and an associated FAQ document at the November meeting of the committee. The committee

provided feedback, particularly in regard to student grading. It was agreed that the IPO should prepare a digest of any impacts this policy might have on grading/maintenance of grade records

2. Monitoring continued Development and Improvement of Oncourse

a. Usage Patterns, reliability, scalability

Several members of the committee expressed concerns about the reliability of Oncourse, particularly during the high usage period at the beginning of each semester. Similarly, the committee was concerned about the ability of Oncourse to scale up quickly if a rapid increase in online instruction were to occur in response to a flu pandemic or other emergency. To address these concerns, the committee invited several experts to make presentations.

Mark Bruhn, Associate Vice President, Information and Infrastructure Assurance, addressed the committee during the November meeting, focusing on Information assurance, particularly on the history of information assurance efforts at IU. Some information is available online at <http://www.businesscontinuity.iu.edu/>. While this discussion was interesting to many members of the committee, reliability and scalability were not specifically addressed.

Dennis Cromwell, Barry Walsh, and Stacy Morrone discussed Oncourse reliability during the December meeting. Focus was on “uptime statistics.” Although reliability was discussed, the committee felt that the uptime statistics were not a strong indicator of the problems, as they average over many low-use periods. Scalability again was not discussed. Two suggestions from the committee during this discussion were

1. To create an “easy button” on all classroom media podiums allowing a simple report of malfunction; and
2. Create a “help me now” request that would elicit help ASAP in the classroom.

b. Sakai 3

David Goodrun and Stacy Morrone provided a discussion of Sakai 3 during the committee’s March meeting. David Goodrun’s focus was on differences in the structure of the tool (Sakai 3 will be “service-based” whereas Sakai 2 is based on the individual tools). Stacy Morrone pointed out that a hybrid version is planned, which will allow users to incorporate parts of each version. New capabilities in Sakai 3 will include social networking, and expanded search tools. A screencast is available at <http://sakaiproject.org/video/sakai-3-screencast>

3. Monitoring the transition of STF funds to UITS

The transition from school-based to UITS-based administration of student technology fee income was a significant concern of the committee. Stacy Morrone and Sue Workman discussed the overall strategy and progress of this transition during the November meeting. Immediate initiatives include new rules for printing (650 free pages/student-semester). Other new initiatives will be highlighted at <http://it4u.iupui.edu/index.html>

a. Development of Testing Centers

One specific initiative that the committee has taken up as a long range issue is the potential creation of computer-based testing centers. One such center, located in SL070, was created

by the School of Science using STF before the transition. Another center is being developed by the IUSM. The committee worked with UITS to begin a multi-stage process that will

1. Establish whether computer-based testing should be a campus-wide priority
2. Create a vision for such centers
3. Determine the need for such centers
4. Begin work to create computer-based testing in one or more locations at IUPUI

Steps taken to date:

1. A group of representatives from UITS, the School of Science, and the Testing center traveled to Brigham Young University to view the extensive campus-wide testing center there.
2. Committee Chairperson A. Gavrin met with the Faculty Council Executive Committee to discuss procedures to move this initiative forward.
3. A first draft of the Vision Statement is complete
4. A subcommittee has been formed to move this initiative forward in the next year (A. Gavrin, S. Morrone, K. Murday, B. Burk, B. Gushrowski)

Next Steps:

1. Create Charge to Committee (IFC Exec. Comm)
2. Survey faculty on needs for centers
3. Revise draft vision for centers

4. Other discussions

Throughout the year, the committee discussed several other issues associated with technology:

1. Early Warning System: This system would provide data to advisors (in some cases through faculty) that would enable advisors to contact students, especially Freshmen, who are in danger of getting into academic difficulty.
2. Adoption of Windows 7.
3. Report to the committee of the first meeting of the IU Learning Technologies Steering Committee.
4. Use of third-party applications for instruction, e.g., Google Docs and Survey Monkey.

5. Recommendations for 2010-2011

The committee has adequate representation from academic units across campus, however, attendance at meetings this year was somewhat spotty. Efforts will be made to find a more suitable time for meetings next year. Collaboration with UITS continues to be excellent. The committee made useful recommendations on the policy drafts discussed, and on services UITS could incorporate in future classroom and online technology.

Several important issues have been identified for new or ongoing focus of the committee in the 2010-11 academic year, including:

1. Focus on IT support for scholarship (request from Craig A. Stewart)
2. Review policy on allocation of supercomputer time (request from Craig A. Stewart)
3. Progress report from David Lewis on "Recapturing the Scholarly Record" (Empowering People recommendation C12)
4. Continued discussion on the reliability and scalability of Oncourse.
5. Draft vision statement for computer-based testing centers
6. Review of available software (IUware, standard builds) selection and use.