

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
2003-2004
SUBMITTED BY FRANCES AYRES, CHAIR**

Committee Members:

Frances Ayres, Chair/Faculty Representative
Deborah Trytten, Faculty Representative
Jim Gardner, Faculty Representative
Pramode Verma, Faculty Representative
Dan Hough, Staff Representative
Robert Dougherty, Staff Representative
Hunter Crowther-Heyck, Faculty Representative
Hartwell Mcneeley III, Student Representative
Anthony Robinson, Student Representative
Baily Rollins, Student Representative
Robert Kelly, Ex Officio representing the Senior Vice President and Provost
Bryon Millsap, Ex Officio representing VP for Administrative Affairs
Loretta Early, Ex Officio Representing ITC
Terry Pinkston, Ex Officio representing the President
Tom Ray, Representative for VP for Research Administration

The ITC met monthly. ITC is composed of the following subcommittees and task forces:

Policy—Researches, adapts and develops IT policies for the institution and submits them for approval by the Faculty, Staff and Student Senates (Chair: Deborah Trytten)

Teaching and Classroom Needs—Addresses issues regarding reworking of classrooms for IT needs from the student's perspective, online classroom scheduling, classroom management software (Blackboard, Web CT etc.), software requirements and other classroom related issues (Chair: Jim Gardner)

Common computing needs—Address issues related to faculty training, implementation of faculty training, planning/implementation of new systems; outdated systems and surveying faculty and staff to gather information on computer needs. (Co-Chairs) Dan Hough and Tom Ray

Multi-Campus issues—Address issues regarding better communication, policies and audio and visual conferencing across campuses. Chair: Pramode Verma

Accomplishments in 2003-2004

1. Developed and IT implemented a mass mail notification policy.
2. Developed email as an official means of communication policy. The policy has been approved by the faculty senate and awaits final approval by the President.
3. Developed and obtained approval for a password sharing policy.
4. Considered the OU web policy. The plan is to refine and develop this more in 2004-2005.
5. Had a meeting at the Schusterman campus in Tulsa. Meet with Steve Stafford the CIO for the Schusterman campus.
6. Discussed a number of issues that did not lead to specific recommendations. Many of these issues will be revisited next year. These issues include:
 - a. Pricing of IT Services- We found that the policy at the Schusterman Center in Tulsa differs from the Norman Campus policy. The Norman Campus policy is to charge for most items of support, while the Schusterman Center does not. There is no clear policy regarding what level of general support is provided by IT. One issue that was discussed during the year was PHP for web development. Information Technology initially told the ITC that OU is a Cold Fusion shop and would not support PHP. However, in the summer of 2004 it was announced that IT would be providing support of PHP on a limited basis (for Engineering) because they had a service contract with engineering. The issue that remains on the table is what level of general user support IT is expected to provide as part of its mission to serve the University community, what types of services should be considered fee based services, and finally for fee based services what fees are reasonable and how are academic units to fund these paying for these services?
 - b. Software issues. Various software issues were discussed. The faculty senate requested consideration of Spam control software and plagiarism software. Regarding Spam controls IT has not implemented system wide spam control software. Similarly IT does not appear inclined to support the purchase of plagiarism software. No system presently exists for funding or supporting new software that is requested by faculty or staff. This would appear useful as much software is less expensive if purchased for institutional use.
 - c. Copyright violations were discussed. It was agreed that it might be useful if the University provided more information about the legal issues relating to copyrights to new students and faculty.