Notes from I.T. Council meeting 10/21/13.

Attendees –
Mark Morvant  Lance Drege  Loretta Early
Elizabeth Pober  Al Schwarzkopf  Eddie Huebsch
Carl Grant  Jonah Duckles (for Henry Neeman)  Mark Jones

Meeting start: 10:35

- Discussion before Chair Schwarzkopf arrived concerned captioning issues within video recording of lectures. There are a variety of possible costs due to final content. If an entire lecture is captioned, the costs increase compared to captioning for more selected content as deemed by the instructor. Students will likely not want to review a lecture again if captioning is word-for-word for the entire lecture vs. only the highlighted remarks for quicker student review. Auto-captioning software may be somewhat lacking at this point. It was mentioned that there are at least three points of contact regarding captioning policies on the university web site and this should be consolidated into one point for ease of use and consistency in policies. Later in the meeting another discussion about captioning occurred related to the availability of student and graduate assistant workers to assist in the captioning process for the instructor. Also mentioned was the forming of a possible committee to discuss best practices in captioning. In many instances this has been seen as a departmental issue rather than a central problem.

- Discussion concerning a meeting with State Senator Rob Sharp of Shawnee about the efforts higher education is taking to control costs for students through electronic and open-source textbooks, library initiatives, book rentals, making resources available through D2L and related technology, and providing tablets to students.

- Discussion regarding the Digital Initiative on campus. Initiatives on campus include open access/content, iTunes U, use of technology in classroom, e-Textbooks, share platform for depository in library, technology for flipped classrooms, tablet deployments in education, One University in OMU as a retail stop plus showcasing available technologies, administrative systems, CMS/D2L, and open education resources in the library. (It was noted that the Janix platform in the library is public, but not an open resource.) Free custom textbooks are another item to keep in mind. The One University initiative may be seen as piecemeal rather than thematic; however, the web site (http://www.ou.edu/content/oneuniversity/about.html) does offer an overall institutional context, as well as illustrate the projects and future of One University. Faculty needs may require a pilot program and/or promotional tutorials to encourage use of all the resources mentioned. There have been several deans involved in One University and further visit to the colleges may be necessary for more communication. More training for PhD students would be helpful for their future careers.

- Discussion concerning student clickers for classrooms. There was a Faculty Senate resolution that the university pick a preferred clicker for all classrooms. Parameters will need to be established within a task force for Faculty Senate to include some I.T. personnel.

- An invitation will be forthcoming to the Director of the Disability Resource Center for the November meeting.

- There will be no December meeting. The January meeting date is on a federal holiday and will need to be rescheduled.

Meeting end: 11:50.