INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2005-2006

The Information Technology Council 2005-2006

Faculty representatives:

Crowther-Heyck, Hunter (History of Science
Maletz, Donald J., Chair (Political Science)
Murphy, Teri J. (Mathematics)
Robbins, Sarah E. (Library)
Trytten, Deborah A. (Computer Science)

Staff representatives:

Carney, Cheryl L. (Industrial Engineering)
Sewell, Michael K. (Information Technology)
Skibsted, Jamie J. (Budget Office)

Student representatives:

Deeg, Matthew D.
Matos, Matthew R.

Ex officio:

Aebersold, Dennis R., Vice President for Information Technology
Hathaway, Nicholas S., President's Office designate
Kelly, Robert D. Jr., Senior Vice President/Provost designate
Millsap, Byron (HSC), VP for Administrative Affairs designate
Papavassiliou, Dimitrios V. (Chemical, Biological, and Materials Engineering; and VP for Research designate)

Schedule:

The ITC met monthly, August 05 through April 06 (the April meeting was moved to May 1).

Particularly helpful throughout the year was the consistent support provided by Information Technology. All meetings were attended either by Dennis Aebersold or by his representative Loretta Early. In addition, Matt Singleton from IT also attended most meetings and frequently briefed the ITC on issues at hand.

Projects and Issues:

1. Robert Kelly agreed to take responsibility for re-designing, maintaining and up-dating the ITC web page. The page (http://www.ou.edu/committees/itc) now links to information about ITC activities, including meeting minutes, as well as all current information technology policies.

2. The ITC reviewed in detail the ITC booklets providing a "Guide to Core Services" and a "Guide to Enhanced Services" and proposed a wide variety of improvements or clarifications. A major item requested was the development of a comprehensive list of all software site licenses held by the University of Oklahoma. Site licenses are now being consolidated under the aegis of the "IT Store" (itstore.ou.edu), intended to be a single source for downloading or purchase of OU licensed software.

3. The ITC pressed for and received an IT commitment to eliminate the social security digits from the OU 4x4 userids. The conversion to new userids was originally promised for summer 2006 but was pushed back to summer 2007 after review of the complexities of re-configuring both the account creation and the email systems.

4. The ITC debated a proposed "network policy" at several meetings, and reviewed a draft with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Difficulties in formulating an acceptable policy statement, plus the new commitment late in 2005 by President Boren to a campus-wide wireless network, led to the shelving of the policy draft for the time being. The ITC reviewed plans for building up wireless connectivity across the campus. All new and renovated buildings are configured for wireless, while expanded wireless connectivity in some additional classroom buildings and in some outdoor areas will be installed during the spring and summer of 2006. Completion of the wireless program will likely extend well into 2007.

5. Major software developments 2005-2006 included the transition from Blackboard to Desire2Learn as the main campus course management system, as well as the transition from McAfee to Symantec for campus-wide antivirus protection. The former appears to have proceeded without major difficulty, while ITC members sought increased user flexibility in scheduling virus scans with the latter.

6. IT is pursuing a site license for the Symantec LiveState backup program, which will provide an enhanced and comparatively inexpensive backup system for faculty and students with stand-alone computers. IT hopes to integrate off-site storage with the LiveState program in the future, for a charge that has not yet been determined.

7. ITC received Senate and Provost approval for the addition of a concluding statement, referencing approved information technology policies, to section 8.12 of the Faculty Handbook. The section now reads as follows:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

OU Information Technology's (IT) vision is to create and sustain an environment where all students, faculty, and staff have easy, accurate, secure, and reliable access to the information services and resources they need to succeed. IT provides world-class information technology services that support and advance the mission of the University of Oklahoma, as well as an information technology infrastructure that supports the University of Oklahoma's institutional goals, and serves in a leadership role in providing the best educational experience for our students. Policies relating to information technology are located on the Information Technology Council web site (http://www.ou.edu/committees/itc).

8. Loretta Early reported on IT projects for 2006-2007. These include review of outdated system software used by the Bursar, Financial Aid, Student Services, and Admissions/Records offices and decision by the end of 2006 on whether to buy or build replacement systems; continuation of the President's initiative to strengthen system security; continuation of classroom improvements; continued development of disaster recovery measures; support for research needs on the south research campus;

9. Don Maletz was elected to serve as Chair for 2006-2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Maletz
Chair, Information Technology Council, 05-06
May 22, 2006