

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2006-2007

The Information Technology Council 2006-2007

Faculty representatives:

Dunn, A. Loraine (Education)
Fox, Darin (Law)
Maletz, Donald J., Chair (Political Science)
Murphy, Teri J. (Mathematics)
Robbins, Sarah E. (Library)

Staff representatives:

Boles, Jeffrey (CCE Training and Research Center)
Carney, Cheryl L. (Industrial Engineering)
Cook, Chris (Geography)
Sewell, Michael K. (Information Technology)

Student representatives:

None appointed

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 regularly from September 2006 through April 2007.

Particularly helpful throughout the year was the consistent support provided by Information Technology. All meetings except one were attended either by Dennis Aebersold or by his representative Loretta Early; for the one missed meeting, Eddie Huebsch attended on their behalf. 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 continued to take responsibility for 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 full meeting minutes, as well as all current information technology policies. It provides a thorough overview of ITC activities and is generally quite up-to-date.
2. Noted by the ITC with appreciation: *Computerworld* recently listed Dennis Aebersold among the country's "Premier 100 Information Technology Leaders" and called OU's IT department one of the "100 Best Places to Work in 2006." *PC Magazine* and the Princeton Review listed OU as one of the "top 10 Wired Colleges" in the nation.
3. The ITC received reports at each meeting about the gradual expansion of the wireless coverage on campus. By the end of this academic year, about 65% of the campus was readily accessible wirelessly and plans are in place for expansion of wireless access in 07-08. IT reports that it consults regularly with UOSA representatives about student preferences for future wireless development. Requests from students led to emphasis on completing the wireless network throughout Bizzell Library in 06-07.
4. IT had agreed to replace the social security digits from all of the OU 4x4 user IDs with the last four digits of the Sooner ID. The conversion to new user IDs, originally promised for summer 2006, was pushed back to summer 2007 after review of the complexities of re-configuring both the account creation and the email systems. At one meeting, ITC was informed that the technical plan for the conversion project was ready. However, in April the ITC was informed that the project had been put on hold at the direction of higher authority. As a fallback, ITC discussed simplifying the process by which an individual could initiate the change in his/her user ID. Change of the user ID is possible upon request, but not necessarily convenient.
5. Major software developments in 2006-2007 included the implementation of the Net Registration program, requiring computer users to register with IT on their first login each semester. The registration enables more accurate communication between IT and computer owners in case of difficulties or hardware loss/theft. Secondly, IT is testing Windows Vista and Internet Explorer 7, as well as Office 2007. It does not currently recommend use of Vista, as there are on-going compatibility issues and drivers for a fair number of devices are not yet available. Vista and Office 2007 will be available under the Microsoft Campus Agreement.
6. IT has purchased 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 discussed problems reported with the student e-mail system this year. Students reported problems with the current "mail.ou.edu" e-mail system being slow or

unavailable at times. The high volume of spam received by students was also discussed. IT plans to upgrade the student e-mail system during the summer of 2007 to an Exchange system, like the e-mail system used by most faculty and staff. IT reports that this upgrade will improve the reliability and functionality of student e-mail. It will also improve the spam filtering capability of student email. Students will use a web-based interface for Exchange, similar to what most faculty use to access e-mail remotely. IT plans to move student e-mail accounts to the new Exchange system in August, prior to the start of the next school year.

8. Dennis Aebersold reported at the final ITC meeting on numerous IT projects underway or planned for the immediate future. These include: 1) a major up-grade of the student email system, moving students to Exchange 2007; 2) a planned up-grade to D2L; 3) enhancement of data storage and backup capability; 4) continuing the up-grade of classroom technology; 5) strengthening the campus emergency communication system; 6) refreshing student computer labs; 7) upgrading the campus network; 8) provision of IT services in all new construction.

9. Darin Fox was elected to serve as ITC Chair for 2007-2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Maletz

Chair, Information Technology Council, 06-07

Darin Fox

Chair, Information Technology Council, 07-08