# Information Technology Council
## Annual Report
### 2007-2008

**Faculty Representatives:**

- A. Loraine Dunn         Instr. Lead. & Acad.
- Darin Fox, Chair        Law
- Suleyman Karabuk        Industrial Engineering
- Teri Jo Murphy          Mathematics
- Sarah Robbins           University Libraries

**Staff Representatives:**

- Jeff Boles          CCE
- Chris Cook          Geography
- Colin Fitzsimons    Office of Technology Development

**Ex Officio:**

- Dennis Aebersold    CIO and VP for Information Technology
- Edward Baron        for the VP for Research
- Nicholas Hathaway   for the President
- Robert Kelly        for the Senior Vice President & Provost
- Burr Millsap        for VP for Administrative Affairs

The Chair would first like to thank Information Technology for providing valuable information to the Council during the year.   In particular, the Chair would like to thank Vice-President Dennis Aebersold, Nicholas Key, Matt Singleton, and Mike Sewell for their ongoing support for and participation in Council meetings and discussions.  The Chair would also like to thank Sarah Robbins for taking minutes this year and Robert Kelly for his continued willingness to maintain and develop the ITC web site which provides a record of past ITC activities through minutes, annual reports, and membership rosters.  Finally, the Chair would like to thank the members of the Council for their active involvement in Council discussions and investigations during the year.

## Projects and Issues

1. ***4x4 Project:*** Information Technology (IT) plans to remove the last four digits of the Social Security number from all 4x4 logins before the end of June 2008.  The SSN numbers will be replaced with the last four digits of the Sooner ID.  IT conducted two tests in April in preparation for this project, and IT will begin notifying affected users in the coming weeks.  All 4x4s created since 2005 have used the Sooner ID numbers in the 4x4, not the Social Security numbers.   So, not all users will be affected by this switch.

The Faculty Senate passed a resolution in June of 2007 calling for the removal of the SSN numbers by June 2008.

2.  *Exchange Migration:* In August of 2007, IT began migrating all users onto a new email system, called Microsoft Exchange.   The previous email system, by Sun Microsystems, experienced some reliability issues and lacked the functionality, especially spam control functionality, that Exchange possesses.   All users have now been migrated to the new system, and ITC notes that the new system has been very reliable this year.

3.  *Web-Based Calendar and Portal System:*  ITC received a report from Melanee Hamilton of the Web Communications Office in November. Ms. Hamilton reported that her office is developing a new portal system which will provide a single sign-on option for students, faculty, and staff to access the various university systems (enroll, pay, etc.). The portal will also integrate email, calendaring, and group information, which can be customized by the individual user based on their particular interests.  Ms. Hamilton also reported that a web-based calendar will be available to departments in the summer of 2008, and it will be accessible by the university community at the start of the fall 2008 semester.   This new calendar system will allow individual departments to maintain event calendars and automatically "push" events up to the larger College-wide and University-wide event calendars for review.

4.  *Mass E-Mail and Spam Reduction:* ITC reviewed the various options for sending mass email on campus.  Currently, mechanisms exist for sending mass emails to the entire University and to the staff and students specifically.   The forthcoming portal system, mentioned above, is reported to create additional options for communicating with specific groups on campus.  IT also reports that it will be replacing the current spam filtering technology with a new technology which will allow for more aggressive filtering of spam at the option of the individual user.   Users will have the ability to reject email that is flagged as spam, instead of directing it to a junk e-mail folder.

5.  *Wireless Networking:* IT reported that wireless access is being added to all classroom renovations and new construction.   IT reports that approximately 75% of the campus is covered by wireless service now.   Recent wireless installations include Gittinger, Kaufman, and Dale Hall 112/116.   Wireless is planned for Dale Hall 107/122/125/200, Physical Sciences 100/102, and Burton Hall 201/205/210 and common areas.

6.  *Information Technology Web Site*: IT reported that the IT web site will be redesigned for fall of 2008.   Currently, some support information is found in the IT knowledgebase and other information is found on IT web pages.   The new web site will allow users to each both of these sources of information at once, and support information will be targeted to specific user groups, like faculty, staff, and students.

7.  *Information Security Training Software:* IT has purchased a new software package by Symantec designed to train users on information security.   The software is primarily directed at faculty and staff who handle sensitive information.   IT plans to communicate

the availability of this software to Deans, Directors, and Department Heads.  This software may be accessed through learn.ou.edu.

8. **_Data Wiping Policy:_**   At the April meeting, ITC reviewed a new policy being developed by Purchasing and IT regarding the disposal of surplus computer equipment.  The new policy is designed to ensure that all University data is removed from surplus systems.  Under the new policy, IT will begin offering a data wiping service to remove data from obsolete equipment, and this service will be free for equipment that is six years old or less.  Members of the Council expressed some concerns about the potential cost of wiping data from equipment that is older than six years.  ITC is considering another meeting to discuss the policy further.

9. **_Election of New Chair:_** By a unanimous vote of the Council members, Sarah Robbins was elected to serve as Chair of the Council in 2008-2009.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darin Fox
May 6, 2008