Briefly stated, the committee’s charge is to provide advice on the delivery of information technology services provided to AS&E, to make recommendations concerning improvements in such services or their underlying policies as necessary to support the University's teaching and research missions. With this objective in mind, the committee held seven meetings during the 2010 – 2011 academic year. One of these meetings was a joint meeting with the Library Committee. In addition, several committee members met with an IT consultant hired by ITS to help in its strategic plans.

The pending transition to a new learning management system to replace Blackboard was a major topic for the committee this year. With the benefit of strong representation by ITS and UIT in committee meetings, constructive recommendations were provided to those planning and implementing the new system. These enhancements will affect all AS&E faculty and students this fall. A discussion of copyright rules and the limitations of Tufts faculty ownership of the materials they authored was triggered by the experience some faculty had with Blackboard resident materials and the corresponding issue for Trunk.

The conversion to Outlook/Exchange as the primary client for email service was a major area of attention for the committee. After the transition was complete we met with UIT and ITS to discuss lessons learned and their applicability to the Blackboard-Trunk project.

The growth of Mac computers on campus served as a catalyst to form a sub-committee focused on Mac use and issues on campus. From email to classroom support the bi-OS environment of Windows and Mac that is prevalent on campus continues to present hurdles for faculty and students. Our meetings brought to light some of the challenges faced in the classroom, at the desktop, and by mobile users of these disparate platforms.

We met with ITS IT support personnel to discuss potential ways to work more efficiently between IT service providers and the end-user. This meeting led to a discussion of the transition to a more secure but less open computing environment. We wrestled with a workable and appropriate policy to satisfy the trade-offs between these two competing goals.

Other topics reviewed were tools for organizing your data, Facebook and its implications for University websites and Trunk, and the use of student developed smart-phone apps for Trunk.

The Committee’s wiki includes minutes from these meetings and other background information.  https://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/display/itcomm/Home

Submitted by Lee R. Minardi, Committee Chair  May 6, 2011
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
AS&E IT Committee Meetings 2010 - 2011

Meeting September 27, 2010
- Blackboard transition process to Sakai

Meeting October 21, 2010
- Tufts copyright policy impact on material posted on Blackboard or Sakai
- Outlook/Exchange conversion for AS&E

Meeting November 10, 2010
- Facebook and Sakai
- Growth of Macs on campus

Meeting December 1, 2010
- Apple Issues sub-committee formed.
- IT Support

Meeting January 26, 2011
- Evernote Presentation
- ITS 5 year Strategic Plan

Meeting February 16, 2011 – Joint meeting with Library Committee
- Learning Management System update
- Digital Design Studio
- Library-GIS collaborations
- Google Book Settlement update

Meeting April 20, 2011
- Outlook migration evaluation
- Tufts Department Apps synced with Trunk (Sakai)
- Apple subcommittee report
- Digital Design studio update