

## **Annual Report**

### **Arts & Sciences and Engineering**

#### **Faculty IT Committee**

**2013 – 2014**

The committee's mission 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 four meetings during the 2013 – 2014 academic year. Members of the committee also attended a meeting with the Classroom Committee. The most common theme for the year was addressing the present and future technology needs for learning spaces and the educators who use them.

The first meeting included discussions on reviewing technology and support changes in the previous academic year, identifying technology needs for instructional spaces, and the challenges associated with gathering valuable/actionable data on the current resources and perceived needs for the immediate future.

The second meeting included continued discussions on the variety of needs for instructional technology, including options for virtualization of desktops/software labs, a variety of instructional techniques, and a variety of methods of collaboration inside and outside scheduled class times. Information was discussed from student representatives, faculty and administration representatives, and information was shared about the experiences of other similar institutions. Resources within the University were sought for assistance with defining the perceived need for instructional technology and an inventory of current resources.

The third meeting focused on discussions related to these resources, including discussion of Katherine Link's Space Planning/Learning Space consultant's report, and collaboration with the newly re-formed Classroom Committee chaired by Paul Stanton. The utility of University-wide software licensing was also discussed, and recent successes with Adobe, Qualtrics, and SPSS were reviewed as models. Plans were made for any available IT Committee members to attend the next available Classroom Committee meeting.

The fourth meeting occurred after several Faculty IT committee members were able to attend the Classroom Committee meeting. Results and plans from that meeting were discussed, as were the further development of plans for the Space Planning consultant RPs, and the approval of an internal engineering expert position focused on AV services at the University. Discussed plans for enhanced communication about software support and resources at the University.

Additionally, a project proposed in collaboration with the Faculty IT committee last year, a maker space in the Tisch Library, has been tentatively approved as "JumboLabs in Tisch" for room 207. This project has been spearheaded by Chris Rogers, IT Committee Member Paul Lehrman, Ben Shapiro, and Dan Hanson. The

Committee is eager to see the results of this fascinating opportunity for cross-discipline collaboration.

Plan for the coming year is to collaborate with the Classroom Committee and the external space planning consultants to develop an accurate and useful picture of current and near-future instructional technology needs for AS&E, continue to communicate with the administration around changes in IT support and resources, and advise faculty on trends and news as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Roberts, Occupational Therapy Dept.

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