

Annual Report

Arts & Sciences and Engineering

Faculty IT Committee

2014 – 2015

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 three meetings during the 2013 – 2015 academic year. Members of the committee also attended a meeting with the Classroom Committee, totaling four meeting commitments. 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. An update was provided on the ITS re-organization process and future steps.

The second meeting included continued discussions on the variety of needs for instructional technology, including updates on learning spaces in 574 Boston Ave. and 200 Boston Ave., videoconferencing options on campus, changes in IT support for faculty and classrooms, initial impressions of the external consultant's report on learning spaces, and issues related to faculty autonomy with webhosting. 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 the Space Planning/Learning Space consultant's report and collaboration with Classroom Committee. The utility of University-wide software licensing was also discussed, and recent successes with Adobe, Qualtrics, and SPSS were reviewed as models. Rollout of the virtual applications process, was discussed, even though the process is in fledgling stages. VOIP system rollout was also discussed with plans and the experiences of current early-adopters. The third meeting occurred after Faculty IT committee members were able to attend the Classroom Committee meeting. Discussed plans for enhanced communication about software support and resources at the University.

Finally, in the final meeting, it was disclosed that the current chair is leaving the University at the end of May 2015. No volunteers self-identified for the role for academic year 2015-2016. Committee members recommended an email be sent to all members, including those not present at the final meeting, to recruit volunteers for Chair position. If no Chair is identified before first committee meeting in the fall of 2015, a convener will be selected to engage the membership in a selection of a new Chair.

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.

May 6, 2015