Annual Report, 2015-2016
Arts, Sciences, & Engineering
Faculty IT Committee

The committee met four times during the 2015-16 academic year. In the fall, we worked with Dean of Student Services Paul Stanton to formally amend the committee’s mission statement to include classroom technology oversight. This change to the faculty bylaws was approved by a vote of the AS&E faculty on 2-24-16. Moving forward, the IT committee will continue to provide feedback to various constituents at Tufts regarding technology usage in classrooms and other learning spaces. In addition, we agreed to meet jointly with the Library Committee in the fall of 2016 to explore goals and initiatives related to information technology at Tufts. Dorothy Meaney from the Library Committee has been invited to participate in IT committee meetings in the future.

In the spring, we consulted with Ron LaRussa, David Kahle, and other IT professionals regarding the redesign of the Eaton computer lab and the larger Learning Spaces project. We also initiated a discussion with Paul Bergen about online educational programming at Tufts and IT resources necessary to support these efforts. Finally, we are partnering with Lionel Zuppan to investigate and test lab management software, including software that will interface with various instruments used in science and engineering labs.

The current chair of the IT committee is stepping down from the committee at the end of the 2015-16 academic year. A chairperson for the 2016-17 academic year was not selected at the final meeting. It was agreed that Jillian Dubman will appoint a convener, who will schedule the first meeting in the fall of 2016, when a new chair will be elected.

Unfinished business for next year’s IT committee:

- Continue to investigate and make recommendations about systems/software that can monitor scientific instruments and equipment, particularly in heavily used core facilities (Badger Software, iLab).
- Create an online digital presence for the arts at Tufts, including archives of performances and other works. With the new Film and Media Studies major and the acquisition of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, this becomes an even more important issue. This effort will need to involve several academic departments, IT, and legal (related to copyrights, etc.). It would be good for the IT committee to report out a need for this to encourage the various groups to start working on it.
- Investigate and discuss how academic analytics could be used to support students in AS&E. This might involve using information available from Trunk, SIS, and other student support services to provide information and early warnings to Deans and faculty about which students might be having difficulty in their classes.
- Investigate the possibility of creating an “exam cluster.” This would be a set of computers that could be used for giving exams where students have access to the relevant software but cannot send messages to each other or collaborate. This would allow faculty to give in-class exams where students could use software. Perhaps we could use EduRoom?
• A perennial concern is how to let faculty/students know what IT resources are available at Tufts, either on-line or in physical form. This is particularly important for collaboration tools and techniques. The committee discussed using “heat maps” to allow students to see computer lab usage in real time.
• Other topics: VoIP rollout starting summer of 2016, two-year rollout across all campuses, on-line learning initiatives, data storage and data management