Annual Report, 2016-2017
Arts, Sciences, & Engineering Faculty IT Committee

The committee met twice during the 2016-17 academic year, once during the Fall semester (September 30, 2016) and once during the Spring (January, 25, 2017).

In the Fall, a presentation was given by Thom Cox on "Access Tufts," a portal to link common services used by faculty and staff at Tufts. An overview of the portal was given, including detailed information about the services that would be provided with this new site, including the Fall release date. This new service will include links for Personnel Information, Finance Information, IT Information, Events and Meeting Information, Travel Information, Workspace and Building Information, and many more. The goal is to streamline many of Tufts' services, making them easier to access online and to provide checklists for various tasks. Additionally, a discussion on the topics that the committee would consider addressing was held. This included:

- VoIP rollover;

- Authentication and passwords;

- Data gathering for academic analytics;

- Update on Data center and digital humanties push;

- Classroom committee issues, including procedure for getting faculty input on classroom upgrades;

- Progress update on the management of scientific equipment from the previous summer;

- The need to elect a chair.

In the Spring meeting, we addressed two of these issues. First, we received a presentation from Paul Bergen on Classroom A/V upgrades and from the Learning Spaces Upgrade Workgroup. This included a discussion on the minimum baseline decisions that were being made to standardize and make classrooms consistent. He also wanted the faculty to be aware that each year a slate of rooms is up for upgrade and faculty will have the opportunity to give feedback on the design and layout of these upgrades.

Second, we received a presentation from Lorna Koppel on the implementation of 2-Factor Authentication and how it would be phased out to the greater Tufts community. Some pitfalls of the program were discussed and feedback given to IT.

Several topics were not discussed and, therefore, the unfinished business for next year's IT committee includes:

- Data gathering for academic analytics;

- Update on data center and digital humanties push;

- Continue to investigate and make recommendations about systems/software that can monitor scientific instruments and equipment, particularly in heavily used core facilities;

- Finally, it should be noted, that no chair was selected for the 2017-2018 academic year and no volunteers to serve stepped forward.