Faculty IT Committee for AS&E

Chair: Michael Roberts

Present: Michael Roberts, Barbara Parmenter, James Adler, Eric Dorman, Robert White, Doug Anderson, Michael Shah, Mitch McVey, Laura Gee,

Date and Time: April 29, 2015, 11AM-12 PM

Plan for this meeting: Discuss Learning Spaces meeting and make end-of-year transition plans

Topics:

1. Virtual applications discussed: Capital budget was approved, will increase access to software licensing, may address current gap in demand and supply for STATA and SPSS, not all academic titles run well in virtual environment, which will be considered as part of the rollout. Previous solution was dedicated pre-loaded laptops maintained by each department as needed, which came with its own limitations in logistical management. Questions raised included when to switch from current licensing practices to virtual applications, how will GAs/TAs access the applications in their different roles, and how can we increase awareness of currently available resources?

2. Discussed need for effective communication of updates in resources available.

3. VOIP rollout update: Landlines will still be needed for emergencies, especially in lab spaces. Early adopters have already begun use of the new system. Tufts office phone numbers can now be moved to mobile phones with use of the VOIP client. Looking into a chat-to-phone-to-WebX transition capability. The entire transition is expected to take not less than 3 years. Call Centers on campus will need continuity, which is a major consideration.

4. External consultant’s assessment of learning spaces included a survey, focus groups, and a review of all resources. Flexibility but consistency was the overall theme of what was expected for learning spaces. Access to power and charging stations will be included as concerns. The draft of the Learning Spaces report will likely be distributed for review in mid-June.

5. Current Chair of Faculty IT committee is leaving the University effective 5/31/15. No volunteers at the meeting to assume role of Chair of committee for coming academic year. Members recommended an email be sent out to all members including those not present in search for Chair.

6. Next Meeting’s Plan: Select new Chair if necessary and set new academic year’s agenda