Faculty IT Advisory Council  
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Members Attending: Tammy Baker (Mabee Library), John Christensen (Law), David Pownell (Education/Kinesiology), Cecil Schmidt (Natural Science and Mathematics), Barbara Stevenson (Nursing), and Rosemary Walker (Business), and Elliott Haugen (ISS).

The meeting was chaired, per past practice, by the Director of Information Systems & Services (ISS). This was Elliott Haugen’s first meeting as interim Director; therefore there was no formal agenda. Mr. Haugen led a discussion that began with background information about himself and then the group focused on the role of the Council. The following summary was prepared by Mr. Haugen with content taken from notes prepared by Tammy Baker.

Elliott Haugen of Kaludis Consulting (Washington, DC-based firm) introduced himself and he is serving as the interim Chief Information Officer and Director of ISS. Kaludis Consulting is a higher education consulting firm with over thirty years of serving colleges and universities. Mr. Haugen has worked for them for 11 years. Prior to joining the firm, his work experience includes associate director of academic computing at North Dakota State University and associate vice president for information technology (CIO) at Saint Louis University, where he worked for fourteen years.

Elliott Haugen said that a year ago, Washburn University issued an RFP for IT Assessment consulting services. The Technology Steering Committee, with additional input from faculty and library staff chose Kaludis as a finalist. No Board action occurred in May, but Wanda Hill called to inform him in the fall that Washburn still wanted to go ahead with the IT assessment. In January 2010, Ms. Hill asked Mr. Haugen if his firm provided interim IT management services. They have done this at a number of institutions, including Saint Leo University in Florida and Pomona College in California. A CIO management services proposal was prepared and Mr. Haugen was asked to serve as CIO beginning on February 15. He is usually in Topeka from 1:30 pm on Mondays and returns to Washington, DC on Thursday nights or Friday afternoon. Bob Stoller was appointed as “second in command.”

Elliott Haugen said that he found the Faculty IT Advisory Council on the web under the Faculty Senate’s “Committee Web Pages” and “Administration” and he wanted to confirm that members of the Faculty Senate are on this council (there are two representatives from the Faculty IT Advisory Council on the Faculty Senate). Elliott Haugen asked how members are chosen for the Faculty IT Advisory Council; usually a department dean sends a list to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the VPAA appoints people from the list. The Council has been around for about three to four years (about a year after they got rid of the ETC). One reason for this Council was an issue of the faculty being surprised with the acquisition of “bubble” scanners (but no one was notified). The Council formed because the Faculty Senate felt they were not being heard. Mr. Haugen commented that the Council may have been formed to be advisory, but he asked the group who we advised and the answer was supposedly the ISS CIO. Mr. Haugen asked where else we should give input and the Council said the VPAA.
There have not been Faculty IT Advisory Council minutes for several months and the Faculty Senate is supposed to get Council meeting minutes. Mary Jordan (ISS secretary) did the minutes for a while.

The group discussed possible strategic IT planning questions, e.g.

- What is the future role of online education at Washburn?
- What should be the future role of general-purpose or dedicated computer labs?
- Do we want to think about addressing handhelds in education?
- How is pedagogy affected by the fact that students may know more than faculty about recent technologies?

Mr. Haugen commented that institutional strategic planning which is usually followed by campus units developing plans to support that overall plan. Several members mentioned that individual Washburn schools/colleges had plans. Mr. Haugen indicated that since Washburn has no IT strategic plan it would be a good time to develop one around the new University strategic plan.

Several technology issues were presented. These include the limited number of SPSS licenses, the installation of specialized software on faculty computers, and the balance between access and security controls.

The group heard that John Haverty (Manager of the Technical Support Center) sent out configurations and quotations for upcoming PCs and Macs. Rusty Taylor and Cecil Schmidt commented via emails before the meeting that Washburn should consider a minimum of 4GB of memory for new PCs (rather than 2GB). Mr. Haugen stated that agreed that if they agreed then these common configurations should be used for next year’s purchases.

Prepared by Elliott Haugen, Director, Information Services and Systems

Approved by Faculty IT Council: 3/24/2010