Faculty IT Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Members Attending: John Christensen (Law), Tammy Baker (Mabee Library), David Pownell (Education/KN), Cecil Schmidt (Natural Science and Mathematics), Azyz Sharafy (Art), Barb Stevenson (Nursing), Rusty Taylor (Applied Studies), Rosemary Walker (Business), and Elliott Haugen (ISS). Scheduling conflicts: Michael McQuire (Psychology), Mary Sheldon (English).

The meeting was called to order by Elliott Haugen, chair. The meeting agenda included:

1. **Approval of minutes.** A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the April 21, 2010 meeting minutes as distributed.

2. **Washburn IT Assessment Feedback.** Mr. Haugen discussed the planned move to KanREN as the provider of Internet connectivity for Washburn; this change would provide a maximum capacity of 2 Gbps (2,000 Mbps) compared to the current 60 Mbps. A proposal is being sent to the Board of Regents for the consideration on May 21. There was some discussion about funding for the upgrade and recommended strategic technology initiatives. Mr. Haugen explained that due to the change in ISS management some of the current ISS operating funds had not been spent and the FY10 Technology Funding ($105,000) for infrastructure was also still available. Proposals and plans are being developed by the ISS leadership team to address some of the priority items identified by the campus community during the Kaludis Consulting IT Assessment, e.g., wireless expansion, Internet and network performance, mediated classroom improvements.

   The issue of providing system administrator rights was discussed and members emphasized the need for faculty to download, install, and test academic software on their University computers. It was stressed that any full-time faculty member should have this functionality. Mr. Haugen stated that the ISS Technology Support Center is already preparing to implement this capability for faculty. System administrator rights will not be provided for lab and classroom computers. There was some discussion about having a web portal for accessing shared software, via authentication; this would allow faculty and students to easily retrieve academic software used in courses.

   The need to expand SPSS licenses (currently 16) was restated and a better solution is needed to improve processing performance. SPSS is a key part of several courses and some faculty members have suggested that students buy a textbook that includes the software or purchase it from an online academic software vendor. The existing approach executes the software on a shared server, but performance is poor. ISS will be addressing both these issues. Bob Stoller is investigating the addition of software licenses and will contact faculty about their SPSS needs, while Kevin Halgren’s staff are developing a better performing computer/processing solution.

3. **Technology Day.** Professor Sharafy introduced the idea of holding a campus-wide technology day, as had been done in the past. The purpose was to provide opportunities for faculty and students to showcase Washburn’s educational uses of applications of technology. He described an exhibition format that could include booths about technology
solutions/products, a traveling Microsoft bus (here in the past), the sale of surplus equipment, and technology training sessions. The Council discussed the possibilities of demonstrating class projects and student/faculty use of social networking tools and mobile computing devices. Professors Taylor and Sharafy agreed to lead an effort to determine the feasibility, expectations, and options for a campus Technology Day.

4. **Other Topics.** There was a Council consensus that the University should start anew regarding the development of an institutional information security policy. In addition, email/calendaring improvement solutions (i.e., outsourcing) should be seriously considered. Both issues should involve faculty input and feedback.

Mr. Haugen indicated that ISS would be seeking input from deans and faulty regarding needed improvements in mediated classrooms. This effort will begin with the identification of classroom upgrade candidates by ISS tech support staff and then he will develop a proposal that would be submitted for the campus input. Several members discussed the need for specialized teaching rooms (specific technologies) and for online testing rooms.

Mr. Haugen stated that the Technology Steering Committee will be asked to consider the development of a strategic information technology plan. Members mentioned that Law and Business had technology committees that could contribute to this planning process.

5. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held after the Fall semester begins. Any matters requiring Council attention will be addressed via email, although several members indicated they may not be available at a short notice.

Prepared by Elliott Haugen, Director, Information Services and Systems

Approved by Faculty IT Council: **Pending**