

Facilities, Support Staff and Technology Committee of Academic Senate
Report for the Academic Year 2007-2008
May 7, 2008

The Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee (FSST) of the Academic Senate met five times over the past academic year to address various issues related to the Committee's charge. This committee gathers information for the Policy Committee and Academic Senate in those areas related to the University's physical facilities including parking, issues related to support services and the University's computing infrastructure activities.

Our first meeting included a discussion of some of the problems faculty have had related to Blackboard. We were informed of several things that had been done to resolve these issues and we learned that we were one of Blackboard's largest customers and we were receiving their premier level of service. Joe Sawasky, WSU's new CIO provided us with a preliminary look at the results of a campus wide technology survey which was conducted to provide him with information regarding the University technology services.

In November we received a status report on the upgrading of the general purpose classrooms. There has been a delay in upgrading all of the general purpose classrooms due to budgetary considerations. However with the monies available new Smart Carts will be placed in some of the classrooms. The Committee also discussed some email options since Eudora is no longer being commercially supported. One of C&IT's goals will be an effort to minimize campus IT platforms in order to improve services across the campus.

Jon Frederick from Parking provided us in January with an update on parking facilities and told us how the budget cutbacks had impacted his activities. At the same meeting Chief Holt discussed how his unit deals with various campus crime waves. As needed he works with the Detroit Police Department and the Michigan State Police to deal with crime sprees. Though he said many crimes were crimes of opportunities because people leave their valuables unattended. He informed us that any homeless people found on campus are taken to one of the area shelters. The good news is his unit was not impacted by the budget cuts and he will be adding 12 additional officers to his staff.

In February Jim Sears provided the committee with an update on his unit's activities and informed us that his operating budget was increased for custodial equipment and elevator maintenance. Then he requested a discussion on the instructional technology infrastructure requirements for the first floor of Manoogian and the general purpose classrooms in State Hall. A variety of suggestions were made including another discussion about replacing chalkboards. These suggestions were noted by Jim Sears and will be considered at an appropriate time. For the time-sensitive issues, it was decided that Jim Sears would continue to work with Dick Dunbar on making the wiring decisions for general purpose classrooms and with Joe Sawasky who would share information from his meetings with Sandra Yee regarding equipment for the general purpose classrooms.