Wayne State University
Academic Senate
Minutes of the Facilities, Support Services, and Technology Committee
Wednesday, November 14, 2007

In attendance: David Cinabro, Thomas Killion, Joe Sawasky, Lothar Spang, Russell
Yamazaki, and Judy Field, Chair

Absence with notice: Brian Edwards

Absence: Ravi Dhar, James Garbern, Daniel Rappolee, Derek Wildman

Guests: Nardina Mein, Director, New Media and Information Technology, and Richard
Dunbar, Manager, Media Services

At our last meeting a request was made for an update on the status of upgrading our
general-purpose classrooms. Dean Yee asked Nardina Mein, Director, New Media and
Information Technology, to provide an update to our committee. Ms. Mein provided the
committee members with a handout that informed us that they currently support
classroom technology in 150 classrooms. The goal is to equip a total of 200 general-
purpose classrooms on Main Campus and 50 general-purpose classrooms on the Oakland
Campus. They want this process to be cost effective, the technology easy to use and
reliable and to have the technology in the classrooms secure from thieves. These
activities have been traditionally funded by the Provost end of year money, which was
not available this year; instead they received $300,000 from the Spectrum lease residual
funds for upgrading classroom technology. A plan to equip all general-purpose
classrooms with appropriate technology would cost $1.4 million. A proposal for creating
a permanent budget for upgrading and maintaining classroom technology is being worked
on.

Ms. Mein explained that many of the computers in the classrooms are six years old. This
is a result of the policy to move computers from the computer labs every two years which
are then placed in the libraries for two years or so and then moved to the classrooms.
This does impact the speed and adaptability of the computers.

The 2007 Smart Cart Plan involves installing 20 touch screen control systems in
classrooms, replacing 15 projectors and 63 computers. They are also planning on placing
cameras in the new cages with the new projectors. The touch screen systems are
connected remotely to the media center and problems with them can be handled remotely.
They are using Crestron as the system to provide this oversight of the classrooms.
Additionally a Classroom Security Committee has been formed to discuss security issues.

Richard Dunbar shared with us the costs involved in upgrading a classroom. The
estimated cost to upgrade Old Main Room 103 would be $8,529.00. These costs do not
include screens, furniture or podiums that are under FPM. We were informed that the
Kresge Auditorium has been upgraded to do class capture.

The question was asked if they had responsibility for Wi-Fi in the classrooms. The answer was "No", that is the responsibility of C&IT. However if there is a need they will contact C&IT.

Another question was how are the libraries public computers funded? The answer is the Omnibus fund. This fund must be used to benefit students.

Discussion then switched to the memo from Seymour Wolfson regarding Eudora and other email options. Joe Sawasky said that he is looking into whether it would make sense to buy some specific licenses for an upgraded version of Eudora . (Eudora is no longer being commercially developed and has become a Thunderbird plug-in project at the Mozilla Foundation named "Penelope") He then went on to talk briefly about other email programs that are supported by C&IT. The complete list of these programs can be found at http://computing.wayne.edu/Help_Desk/software.php. It is his intent that the C&IT help desk provide high quality service. The current variety of services that are supported by C&IT and the schools and colleges IT groups can complicate the process of providing a quick response to a question at times: as frequently, problems reported to one group have to be triaged to the other. One goal of C&IT is to minimize the differences in campus IT utilities that are currently supported including reviewing the versions that are being supported. Among the other packages Outlook and Outlook Express email features are supported.

 The Medical School currently uses Exchange, which allows for calendaring and other cooperative features. Mac programs do not always work smoothly with all features of Exchange email platform. There have been requests elsewhere on campus for Outlook Exchange email services and it is being studied.

The question raised was whether any of the upgrades being made to the first floor of Manoogian were tied to information technology upgrades.

Meeting dates for 2007-08. All meeting will be scheduled from 1:30 to 3:00.

- Wednesday December 12
- Wednesday January 16
- Wednesday February 13
- Wednesday March 19
- Wednesday April 9
- Wednesday May 14 (tentative, in case we have unfinished business)