Information Technology Committee

March 6, 2009 1pm, Vance 105
Minutes

Present: Jason Jones, Barry Sponder, Debbie Herman, Derek Pierce (guest), Otis Mamed, Charles Menoche, Jason Snyder, Julia Kara-Soteriou, Krishna Saha, Gustavo Mejia, Paul Altieri (ex officio), Robert Cernock (ex officio), Sherry Pesino (guest), Tom Brodeur, Tiffany Doan, Elizabeth O’Neill, Henry Rudzinski (ex officio)

I. Call to Order

II. Minutes of December 5, 2008 meeting: http://www.ccsu.edu/itc/Minutes/2008-09/ITCminutesFeb6.rtf

Jones asked ITC members to review the draft minutes and send any emendations to Debbie Herman or him by the end of next week (3/20).

III. Announcements

- Merlin Mann (http://www.43folders.com) on campus 4/28
  Merlin Mann, creator of the 43 folders website, will be speaking at CCSU on April 28, 2009. Information on the lecture will be disseminated to other schools in the coming weeks.

- Update from IT Governance committee
  The IT Governance Committee has met twice already and is in the throes of self-organization. Numerous subcommittees have been established, some of which require additional faculty representation. Rudzinski volunteered to serve on the Web Development subcommittee as well as the Student Campus Computing Environment subcommittee. Menoche volunteered to serve on the User Support Services subcommittee.

- Sponder announced that the Technology for Teaching and E-Learning Conference (formerly the Academic Computing Conference) will take place on Sat., April 18, 2009 at WCSU. Registrations are still being accepted at the following URL (http://www.ct.edu/academics/conf_computing.htm).

IV. Old Business

- By-laws (Online senate elections mean that all faculty can vote in all areas. The elections committee just wants to make sure that’s ok.)
  Since faculty have been able to vote in all areas on paper ballots it was agreed that the change would not deviate from current practice, and thus would be acceptable.

- Web site for reviewing academic requests / proposals / queries
There has been no action on this item. Altieri stated that requests are still coming in through the Deans’ offices and that ITC can review the requests if there is interest. Altieri explained that the bond process is being handled differently this year in that a review will be conducted outside of CCSU. All bond requests must be purchased. This year’s requests will be presented to President Miller on Monday, March 16, 2009. Although it would be desirable to have ITC’s input, the expeditious nature of this year’s process would not permit a review. Brodeur stated that he routinely asks ITS to review the specifications of any IT purchasing requests. Cernock added that since the funding will not be carried over into the next fiscal year all bond funds must be expended by June 30, 2009. Mamed asked if we ought to have input in the budget process, consistent with President Miller's October memo.

E-mail, and the new e-mail policy

Cernock reported that although attendance at the recent open meeting on the new CSU e-mail policy was poor, there was a good dialogue. Some aspects of the new policy received criticism, but any proposed changes would have to be forwarded to the Council of Presidents and the CSU Chancellor. Rudzinski asked if the new policy is applicable to student employees. Student employees should be aware that forwarded CCSU e-mail could be seized from a personal e-mail account if involved in litigation. Menoche noted that there were no part-time faculty in attendance and suggested that a controlled, opt-in listserv could be set up for PT faculty to receive campus announcements. It was also noted that certain departments require PT faculty to use their CCSU email account. Jones will speak to the Part-time Committee of the AAUP Executive Council regarding the new policy.

The new CSU e-mail policy obviated the need for Cernock to give a report as requested by ITC at the February meeting. Concerning the Acceptable Use Policy, Cernock apprised the ITC that the government documents librarian is unable to provide any assistance with the identification of relevant statutes, etc. The question remains whether CCSU is considered part of the executive or legislative branch of state government. Cernock brought the matter up at the last CSU CIO’s meeting. Blitz observed that while faculty are technically members of the Executive Branch of Government, CCSU as a corporate entity is not.

V New Business

New graduate program in Biology (Tiffany Doan)

Doan took the floor to discuss the new doctoral program in anesthesiology, which will supersede the existing master’s program. The new program will be entirely online/hybrid. Students will be required to meet on-ground four weeks per semester, but the remainder to be conducted online. Courses will be offered during the spring, summer and fall semesters. Doan questioned whether the hybrid format would be restricted by the Board of Trustees policy that no online courses be conducted during the fall and spring semesters. It was agreed that the BOT’s distance education clause applied only to undergraduate courses that were taught exclusively online and that hybrid courses fell into the gray zone. Menoche pointed
out that there might be ongoing technical support issues that may have hidden costs associated with them. Saha suggested that the online master’s program in data mining at CCSU be used as an exemplar for the new anesthesiology program. Cernock recommended that Doan’s presentation to ITC serve as a model for all new academic programs with an online component.

iTunes University (general background on streaming video in higher ed, courtesy of Barry Sponder: http://www.streamingmedia.com/r/printerfriendly.asp?id=10966)
Sponder provided some background information on the statewide contract for iTunes U. Some questions were raised about the costs of implementing it at CCSU as well as copyright concerns. Still, iTunes U offers an integrated solution for faculty to create and publish multimedia content. Pierce added that the new CMS will support the hosting of multimedia content. Pesino stated that iTunes U might solve the space problem on Blackboard Vista. Given all the unanswered questions, an ad hoc committee has been formed to address these issues as well as explore the potential implementation of iTunes U at CCSU. Sponder, Herman, Menoche, Pesino, Mejia, and Blitz volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Herman will chair.

Multimedia classrooms / upgrades & installations (Lisa Washko)
Washko solicited ITC input concerning multimedia classroom equipment. She stated that bond funds will be used to replace 40+ LCD projectors, but she would appreciate some guidance concerning the remaining expenditures. Washko suggested the remaining funds could be used to equip 5 more classrooms with “black boxes”. Since ITC has a Multimedia Classroom subcommittee, it was agreed that the subcommittee would work with Washko on expending the remaining funds. It was suggested that the remaining funds be allocated to upgrading and/or fixing existing multimedia classrooms. Rudzinski suggested using the ITS helpdesk database to identify existing problem classrooms.

Elections committee volunteers
Solicitation of Elections Committee volunteers was tabled until the next meeting. Jones will be stepping down as chair at the conclusion of the academic year and asked ITC members to think about nominations for Chair.

Pesino announced the ITDRC will be undergoing renovations in the very near future but will remain open until move week.

Blitz announced that the CSU Distance Learning Committee has been revived. There are two representatives from each campus. Blitz and Dean Kremens are CCSU’s representatives. The committee will compile issues, which might lead to a revision of the BOT distance learning clause.

VI Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Herman, ITC Secretary