Planning Effective Faculty Participation in Technology Planning and Implementation

ITCO and the Faculty Senate sub-committee, Academic Computing and Information Technology Advisory Sub-Committee (ACITAS), met jointly for the rest of the 2010-11 academic year and during the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year. Jens Clegg, ACITAS Chair, and Gail Rathbun, ITCO Chair, will co-facilitated the Spring 2011 meetings. Mike Wolf and Gail Rathbun co-facilitated the meetings during Fall 2011.

The purpose of the joint meetings was to provide opportunities for discussion of the ways in which the committees may more effectively execute their respective charges. A sub-committee comprised of Joseph McCormick (ITCO and ACITAS), Betsy Berry (ITCO), Michael Wolf (ACITAS), and Becky Jensen (ACITAS) volunteered to work on recommendations for future collaboration. Due to the difficulty of scheduling meetings, this sub-committee, has not yet reported in.

Technology Showcase April 8, 2011

ACITAS and ITCO jointly planned and executed “The Technology Showcase: Learning Anywhere, Anytime”, a day-long teaching conference featuring Educause Learning Initiative director Malcolm Brown, demonstrations by Apple, Café Scribe, ITS, and faculty members. Seventy-eight faculty and staff attended. CELT provided three iPads to faculty members for use in their teaching. The event was co-sponsored by CELT, ITS, OAA, COAS, and DCS. ACITAS and ITS conducted a survey prior to the event to assess faculty and staff use of various technologies, especially mobile technologies. Forty-eight people responded. More about this event can be found at http://new.ipfw.edu/dotAsset/6288a6a3-e401-4f6a-bc81-5e6767f2f2fa.pdf.

Red Balloon Forum on Re-imagining Instructional Technology at IPFW

ACITAS hosted the March 28, 2011 Red Balloon forum with Jens Clegg, Chair of ACITAS facilitating. The event went smoothly and lots of great information was shared.

Recommendation regarding Blackboard

ACITAS decided to issue a statement in support of switching to Blackboard 9.1.

ACITAS position on social networking and other technologies/uses of technology

Jens Clegg suggested that ACITAS ought to have a position/view of social networking, and that this position should be reported to the Senate. Another topic might be web accessibility. These position statements might include: policy recommendations, communicating university policies, general...
information about the technology, recommendations about how to use the technology in teaching and other faculty work, best practices, and any other details found to be pertinent. Committee members expanded on this idea to include positions/statements on a larger number of technologies that could be shared with the Senate. In this way, ACITAS would become visibly proactive about informing/educating/activating faculty colleagues.

ITCO web site

The ITCO Frequently Asked Questions web site, organized from the perspective of faculty, was converted to the new IPFW template by CELT Digital Media Assistant Paul Fager. It was also made accessible and was partially updated by ITCO members. Work will continue and consideration given to moving the site to Vibe.

Blackboard Learn Evaluation Project

Two years down the road, IPFW will have to justify its decision to have its own instance of BL. We will have to be able to convince WL that our decision has been a good choice; we will have to convince ourselves of that, too, so we need to start now gathering evidence, and from all stakeholders. Gathering and presenting the evidence from the faculty perspective, and from the larger teaching and learning perspective is an appropriate role for ACITAS. The ideas and recommendations that ITS gathers from faculty relevant to the use of Blackboard Learn should be put in front of ACITAS. The Blackboard Fellows need a unit or organizational body that will respond to their findings and observations.

Cheryl Truesdell (ACITAS) volunteered to chair this committee. The committee will be composed of the following:

- Steve Carr as a Blackboard Fellow (also ITCO member)
- A second Blackboard Fellow, when appointed
- Joseph McCormick (ACITAS and ITCO)
- Karen Van Gorder (ACITAS and ITCO)