

Instructional and Research Support Committee Meeting April 19, 2012

Present: Munehiro Fukuda, Chair, Wayne Au, Carolyn Brennan, Kevin Lavery and Becca Price

Absent: Peter Littig

Guests: Terry Hill, Laura Mansfield, Brian Nguyen, Joe Shelley and George Theo

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Review of IRSC Minutes of March 5, 2012

The IRSC minutes of March 5, 2012 minutes were approved.

New UWB Website – Laura Mansfield, Web Manager

Fukuda briefed the IRSC on recommendations that the committee made in their 2008 annual report to highlight faculty research and advertise our intellectual capital. Laura Mansfield, Web Manager for UWB spoke to the IRSC about the re-design of the UWB website. The new website design is highlighting innovation and creativity and includes faculty research stories. Although we need to align with UW standards, the website should differentiate UWB as a campus and show who we are as an institution. Mansfield has segmented the homepage into sections, a top news story will update on a rotating basis and a center section will focus on innovation and creativity, featuring faculty research.

IRSC discussion points

- Accessibility is very important, admissions information should be readily accessible and the academic calendar should be easy to locate.
- Links to the top sites students visit could be helpful and a MyUW link.
- Connections with social media sites could also be considered.
- Branding messages on inspiring innovation and creativity will need to have faculty input.
- The footer is consistent on each page, which is beneficial.

Mansfield asked for input from the IRSC, sharing research information, sending her any stories of interest on faculty and keeping communication open.

Transition from Blackboard to Canvas – Joe Shelley, Assistant Director of IT Services

Joe Shelley, Assistant Director of IT Services at UWB addressed the transition from Blackboard to Canvas at UW. The learning management system, Canvas, may be recommended to replace Blackboard throughout the UW system. Shelley stated that IT is committed to working collaboratively with the IRSC and would like to find ways to interface effectively with the committee. Kelly Trosvig, Vice President of UW Information Technologies, is working on centralizing a learning management system at the UW, although UWB could make independent decisions to build a web service. Betsy Tippens, David Goldstein and Brian Fletcher are involved with the working group at UW for this selection process. Andreas Brockhaus is the main point of contact at UWB for the selection process. Shelley stated that IT would also like to send the recent faculty survey to the IRSC for feedback.

IRSC discussion points

- The IRSC must be involved in decision making in the campus process for a new learning management system and other instructional support systems.

- UWB is currently under a three-year contract with Blackboard, which will expire next year. It will then be determined if it is cost effective to continue with Blackboard or to transition to Canvas. Yearly licensing costs for Blackboard are much more expensive beyond the three-year contract.
- Faculty may wish to keep some survey tools or integrate web conferencing with Canvas.
- The Chancellor and UW Deans voted to endorse Canvas.
- The UW should have a decision on a learning management system by the end of Spring Quarter 2012.

Student Technology Fee

Fukuda invited George Theo, Director of Student Life, Terry Hill, Assistant Director of Student Affairs and Brian Nguyen, Chair of the Student Technology Fee Committee to speak with the IRSC about the Student Technology Fee (STF) and the process for funding proposals through this fee. The STF is used to supplement the availability of technology to UWB students which allows them to further their education and research goals. The STF is not used to fund items that should be funded by administrative monies, such as anything critical to a program's curriculum. Student funds could compliment a project but not support any project that central funding should fund.

IRSC discussion points

- How are decisions made by the STF committee in regards to lab equipment that students use, which is not connected to lectures?
- What is the distinction between curricular and non-curricular projects in the proposal process?
- Wifi access is becoming a curricular issue, the cost of this technology should be funded by IT.
- Infrastructure issues related to courses and curriculum should be funded by the campus.
- The final decision making for funding proposals by the STF is made by the students, the STF committee.

Fukuda presented a discussion item from a UWB faculty member on research funding at UWB. A question on the institutional culture around research at UWB was brought forward. The issue of funding research through the ORS and how faculty are funded on this campus was discussed.

IRSC discussion points

- Brennan spoke about research support at UWB, external proposals sustain the research culture here, but we are expanding our research support.
- Internal support of research is becoming more visible, we are highlighting faculty research on the UWB website.
- Community based scholarship is bringing our research to the community.
- Institution building is still taking time away from research for the faculty. This remains a critical issue.
- Some faculty are concerned that research funded through the ORS is given priority.

The next IRSC meeting will be May 10, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Van Sant