

Instructional and Research Support Committee Meeting  
May 17, 2012

Present: Munehiro Fukuda, Chair, Kevin Lavery and Becca Price

Absent: Wayne Au, Peter Littig

Guests: Betsy Tippens, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technologies

### **Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

### **Review of IRSC Minutes of April 19, 2012**

The IRSC minutes of April 19, 2012 minutes were approved.

### **Communication and Collaboration between IRSC and IT - Betsy Tippens**

Betsy Tippens, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technologies (IT) opened a dialog with the IRSC on collaboration and communication. She would like to see an enhanced relationship between the IRSC and the IT and work with the committee toward defining the IRSC's role in policy and decision making involving the Technology Advisory Committee and Information Technologies. IT is working on a Horizon Report, a roadmap that will direct recommendations on what types of technology will support teaching and learning on campus. A faculty survey has been sent out for initial faculty input on what technologies faculty are using, what type of technology is critical to the work done by faculty and what learning technologies are useful. The next step will be to form faculty focus groups to gather further input on this issue. Tippens would also like to hear from the IRSC on this initiative.

### **IRSC discussion points**

- The role of the IRSC must be more active in decision making at the earliest stage of planning, before decisions are made or surveys are conducted.
- The role of the IRSC is to represent the faculty voice on policy and decision making on teaching and research.
- What is done with the data once it is collected? How is the information used for decision making?
- Faculty development is an important area for the IRSC to be supporting and directing.
- How will new spaces on campus be utilized and developed? How will technology be incorporated into UW3? Systems must be designed that can respond quickly to changing technologies.
- A budget proposal through IT offering incentives for faculty development for technology could be recommended.
- The IRSC must find a way to be informed of campus committees and task forces that are formed across campus that affect teaching and research.
- Lavery pointed out that an undergraduate research steering committee has been established, the IRSC was not made aware of this committee. The role of the ORS in working collaboratively with the IRSC should be to inform the IRSC of these working groups.
- Price also informed the committee about the Teaching and Learning Symposium at UWB and an Undergraduate Research Symposium at UWS which was announced at UWB after abstracts were due. This is the kind of information that the IRSC needs to be made aware of.

- The charge of the IRSC states that the committee shall advise the TLC and the ORS as well as other campus-level instructional and research support entities.
- Faculty development grants could integrate all the arms for the IRSC.
- We need to insure the IRSC is re-invigorated and stays robust.
- Lead users of technology can inform IT on technology issues and shape the direction of development.

**IRSC consensus:** The faculty, through shared governance in the IRSC need to be the core of teaching-related decisions. The IRSC should have an assigned seat on the Technology Advisory Committee. The IRSC will request reports from the TLC, ORS and IT to identify and act on teaching, learning and research issues. Betsy Tippens will be invited to attend IRSC meetings.

### **UW3 Analysis of Server Room from UW IT**

Fukuda opened discussion on the UW3 analysis of a server room from UW IT. Should a new server room be funded in UW3 or should we move forward with other options? Other options include:

- Outsourcing, also known as co-location services, enables IT departments to operate and manage their equipment at an off-site data center environment that is maintained by a third party.
- UW-IT or a private leased facility can be utilized to off-load any or all of the present server room capacity at Bothell. This could free up the present server room on the Bothell campus for academic and research that has a higher tolerance for lower-tiered data center infrastructure services. UW3 could outsource to a private service or to the UW IT Tower Data Center.

### **IRSC discussion points**

- The server room in UW1 is at capacity for heating and air conditioning, also overhead pipes pose a risk for water damage.
- We could create a data center in UW3 or a cluster of servers not on a network.
- Will STEM create the need for more computational research and technology?
- We can modify the existing server room, but will that serve our purpose in the future?
- Do programs need more computing services?

### **Review of All the Other Previous Discussions toward Annual Report**

Tippens discussed the Faculty User Group established as a way that the TAC can interface with faculty to find out what faculty need in the way of technology and get feedback from the faculty. One area that the group is looking at is the Digital Media Lab and money coming in for course fees. Faculty will be involved in policy and decision-making on how these fees are spent. Gray Kochhar-Lindgren, Associate Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Education is working to set up an initial meeting to discuss these institution-wide policies for how course fees can be used across all disciplines.

Tippens also discussed the Student Technology Fee with the IRSC. Brian Fletcher serves as advisor from IT to the committee but is not involved in decision-making, it is a student driven committee. IT has budgetary control over proposals of the STF. A budget has been submitted from IT for computer labs. These labs could be centrally funded in the future.

The next IRSC meeting will be May 24, 2012

Minutes submitted by Barbara Van Sant

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.