Academic Technology Committee

Minutes

March 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order and the minutes from the February Meeting were approved with one correction. The purpose of this meeting was to go over the technology plan and make any needed changes before final acceptance of the plan.

The #1 goal now reads as follows:

The college should provide adequate funding so Information Technology can replace aged equipment with faster, more reliable and more affordable technology.

Jason Dudley answered some questions regarding the cost of replacing equipment which would be about 3 million over five years or $600,000 per year. He will provide the committee with a breakdown of these costs.

Goal #2 will be broken down into two goals. The present goal reads as follows: Provide support of current academic technology and upgrade technology on a four year cycle. The two goals would be to

* Provide support of current academic technology
* Upgrade technology on a four year cycle

Jason reported faculty are now on a four year refresh cycle. The total cost for refreshing on a four year cycle to be implemented over the next three years would be 82K per year.

Jason will give the figures for staffing breakdown so we can add the costs to the goal of providing support for current academic technology.

Jason reported that the plan is to replace the old smart boards with interactive white boards in three years or less.

The committee spent quite a bit of time discussing goal #4: To provide enough computer classrooms to meet the needs of the academic unit. From looking at the lab utilization reports provided by Dr. Stewart, it was apparent that the present labs are not being used enough to justify the cost of creating more labs. Faculty felt that their needs were not being met despite the report findings. The prime time for students is in the morning (9-1) and right now it is very difficult to find labs available at those times. Changing class times to accommodate lab schedules risks cancellation of classes since enrollment is down and students prefer morning times. This led to a discussion of requiring all students have computers, a concept known as BYOD (bring your own device). Jason stated that other schools are making this switch since it eliminates the need for more computer labs and will eventually reduce the cost of creating and maintaining labs. The cost to prepare the infrastructure to handle this type of a program would be about one million dollars.

The committee felt this was a very good direction to move towards since it would solve lab issue. It was recommended that we study this option and propose it as a viable alternative to more labs. This could be included in this year’s plan but we could spend next year working out the details with the administration so it could become a reality within the next couple of years.

We also briefly discussed adding a goal relating to streamlining the process of getting equipment from purchasing to the user. Jason stated that his department has a lot of equipment purchased in the last quarter and his staff is working as hard as possible to get all of the equipment inventoried and set up as soon as possible. If this is going to be one of our goals, we need to look closely at the reasons for the backup and find ways to make the process more efficient.

The chair asked for nominations for next year’s committee chair. There was no response, so this will be tabled until our April meeting when a new chair needs to be elected.

As we ran out of time, the meeting was adjourned.