Information Technology Policy Committee
2004-05 Annual Report

The Information Technology Policy Committee was kept apprised of I&MT’s activities by CIO Bruce Mass throughout the year. The committee was also kept current regarding the activities of the Provost’s IT Review Committee by chair Stephen Pevnick. The committee was kept abreast of the funding discussions of the Educational Technology Committee by liaisons Stephen Pevnick and Jacques du Plessis. The committee was also kept informed of the status of negotiations for discounts on Time Warner Internet services by I&MT. At the beginning of the year, the committee was concerned with the quality of email service for the campus, including viruses and the volume of spam. It was advised that money was not available to change from the freeware PantherMail at that time.

The technical and academic issues surrounding the use of anti-plagiarism services were discussed. A rewrite of the Acceptable Use Policy for IT resources was begun, although the committee had visited this issue the previous academic year. Another concern was ongoing support for web pages created by emeritus faculty as the campus web site evolves.

As the year progressed, a new draft of the Acceptable Use Policy was discussed and recommended by the committee. Several committee members served on Core Service Teams. Tim Haas was replaced on the Mail Core Service Team by Mike Utzinger. Simone Conceição led the Core Service Team that identified and documented the non-credit use of Desire2Learn. A Macintosh Core Service Team was created to address concerns over the lack of adequate support for Apple Computers on campus. The full committee discussed the implications of implementing campuswide portal and content management systems. Combating email spam remained an ongoing concern.

As per usual, the Vice Chancellor was invited to answer questions poised by the committee. As Acting Provost and Vice Chancellor, Rita Cheng addressed the questions in person and in writing.

When the accreditation site visitors were on campus, they met with a number of members of the ITPC.
In the Spring semester, Jae Allen of I&MT described the pilot of the myUWM portal and the experiences of the first 1,100 people to use it. The committee recommended that the draft of the re-written Acceptable Use Policy be forwarded to the Faculty Senate, the University Committee and other administrative bodies as required.
The Email Core Service Team announced that it would begin expanding its focus to include integrated email, calendar, instant messaging, and possibly electronic conferencing systems. Later in the semester, the committee entertained a presentation from IBM describing their Notes/Domino Collaboration Suite as one possible approach to a full-featured collaboration suite as recommended by the Educational Technology Fund Committee.

Joe Smith of I&MT reported on efforts beginning with the April issue of the UWM Report to promote the Computer Lab Software Selection process (CLaSS) for soliciting input from faculty and teaching staff regarding the software installed in Campus Computer Labs and some 60 high tech classrooms for the Fall 2005 semester. At the last meeting of the academic year a summary of the progress of the IT Review was given by Stephen Pevnick, however the final report was not
anticipated until later in the summer. The committee’s concerns regarding Printing Services and Television Services were discussed.

I&MT reported that for three months an I&MT staff member had been upgrading the central spam filtering service to use Bayesian technology and testing it on one of the seven campus email servers in preparation for campuswide deployment. The final Educational Technology funding decisions were reported to the committee by Stephen Pevnick and Bruce Maas. As a number of committee members had attended a previous meeting with Ed Machen, the UW System Vice President for Learning and Information Technology, and they reported on their discussion with him.

In May, Stephen Pevnick was re-elected as committee chair for the 2005-06 academic year, and the Secretary of the University was so informed.

Submitted by: Stephen Pevnick MFA, Associate Professor and ITPC Chairman