University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Information Technology Policy Committee
2007-2008 Annual Report
DRAFT, 5/21/2008

Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department/Role</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Excused</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethan Munson</td>
<td>Computer Science, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelly Bednar</td>
<td>Enrollment Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Burns</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<td>Simone Conceicao</td>
<td>Administrative Leadership</td>
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<td>Chiu Tai Law</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
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<td>Min Wu</td>
<td>Health Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Kahl</td>
<td>Mathematical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hanh Trinh</td>
<td>Health Care Admin</td>
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<td>Jacques Du Plessis</td>
<td>School of Info Studies</td>
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<td>Andy Ritter</td>
<td>UWM Libraries</td>
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<td>Rina Ghose</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>James Dicker</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
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<td>Chris Guse</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
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<td>Edward Mabry</td>
<td>Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luc Vanier</td>
<td>Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Maas</td>
<td>UITS, ex-officio</td>
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<td>Laura Pedrick</td>
<td>Provost Designee, ex-officio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brok Bucholtz</td>
<td>Student – withdrew mid-year</td>
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Charter:
Functions/ Responsibilities:

A3.2 Information Technology Policy Committee

(1) Membership. Eighteen members as follows: eight elected faculty; two from each division of the University, elected by division; four appointed faculty, one from each division appointed by the Chancellor from nominations submitted by the University Committee; three elected members of the academic staff, with at least one representing full-time teaching staff; one student; and, ex-officio, the Director of Information and Media Technologies, and a representative of the Provost.

(2) Functions.
Makes recommendations to the faculty and campus administration regarding (a) policy or information technology and its use; (b) the coordination of service delivery by all campus information technology units, including monitoring, overlap, conflicts and inefficiencies; and (c) the implementation of decisions pertaining to information technology and related services.
Meetings:
- September 14, 2007
- October 12, 2007
- November 9, 2007
- February 8, 2008
- March 14, 2008
- April 11, 2008
- May 2, 2008

Major Accomplishments:

Throughout the year, the Committee closely monitored the approval process for the Information Security Policy. The policy was approved by the Policy Advisory Committee and forwarded to the Provost in April 2008.

In October 2007, the committee met with the Provost and discussed computing support for research, the Access to Success initiative, university master planning, campus safety procedures and support for distance learning and open education.

In November 2007, the Committee continued its discussion of research computing resources and each member discussed the particular needs of their academic area. The Committee recommended that a research IT needs assessment be undertaken.

The Committee also returned to consideration of a motion raised by Ed Mabry the previous year. It was passed as follows:

The ITPC believes that in recent years information technology has become a critical support service for effective functioning of all aspects of the University, including teaching, research and administration. Information technology now appears to be as vital to UWM's operations as services like Physical Plant and Business & Financial Services.

The ITPC is concerned that information technology does not receive sufficient attention in campus planning activities. For example, UWM has predictable and recurring IT expenses that are not supported by regular budget lines, such as classroom media equipment and certain large software licenses. Furthermore, UWM's research computing infrastructure appears to be diffuse, poorly coordinated and lacking substantive budget support.

In light of these observations, the ITPC recommends 1) that UWM's faculty and administration elevate the priority of information technology in campus planning activities and 2) that faculty and administration work to ensure that information technology infrastructure is better coordinated and adequately supported, using
mechanisms like budget earmarks, DINs or targeted campus development campaigns.

In February 2008, the Committee provided recommendations regarding the campus website and its governance to the campus web architect and the vice chancellor for university relations and communications.

In March 2008, the Committee provided recommendations to UITS and the manager of the UWM Bookstore regarding improvements to campus processes for purchasing computers and software. Advice was also given to UITS regarding the draft research computing survey slated for distribution in April.

In April 2008, the Committee considered the possible ramifications of a hostile takeover bid by Microsoft for Yahoo!, the company that owns the Zimbra email product that is being rolled out as a replacement for PantherMail. Possible overlaps in the collaboration features within Zimbra with those in the D2L learning management system were discussed.

The Committee learned that the proposal for the construction of a second data center at the USB building to address the space, power and HVAC limitations in main computer room would be put before the Board of Regents in June. When complete, this project is expected to benefit research computing and provide a measure of business continuity.

Also during the month of April, Professors Mabry and Munson served as Committee representatives to the Educational Technology Advisory Committee. Professors Mabry and Burns, along with other faculty and UITS staff, served on an ad hoc working group to develop a set of draft IT Guiding Principles.

In May 2008, the Committee heard from the campus web architect and the vice chancellor for university relations and communications regarding progress on the Committee’s February recommendations regarding the university website. The Committee again pushed for timely implementation of solutions to obvious problems with the website rather than waiting for a bi-weekly meeting of the Web Steering Committee.

The faculty members on the Committee explained that because of their multiple responsibilities they routinely access information that is currently linked under the tabs designed for other roles, especially the one for future and current students. They expressed the desire to have these links also available under the faculty and staff tab. The Committee was given the option of appointing a representative to the Web Steering Committee.

The Committee reviewed and commented on the draft IT Guiding Principles and decided to continue the discussion in the fall. CIO Bruce Maas outlined the IT issues on the horizon for 2008-09, including:

- Supporting research computing
Designing a second data center
Analyzing the results from the research computing survey
Hiring a Director of Research Computing

- Engaging in the university’s Master Planning exercise
- Developing an IT strategic plan as mandated by the legislature
- Adopting requirements methodology for professionalizing IT decision making
- Synergizing the core services for storage, collaboration and web content
- Collaborating with Internal Audit to review university IT operations based upon the provisions of the Information Security Policy
- Engaging with decentralized IT staff and service providers across the university.

Simone Conceição was elected as the chair of the ITPC for 2008-09 and Jacques du Plessis volunteered to serve as the representative to the Unit Technology Representatives.