The Information Resources Committee met six times during 2008-9. Two ongoing functions of our committee meetings are that they enable the faculty (through their representatives on the committee) to (a) raise issues with the IT folks and (b) be kept abreast of IT developments through the same representatives. A considerable portion of meeting time had to do with these activities.

Examples of topics for discussion under category (a) for 2008-9 are: problems with the Stuzin 1st floor classrooms and problems with communication from and to faculty on classroom equipment problems. Examples of topics for discussion under category (b) are: possible replacements for Blackboard, progress on the "thin client" option for desktop hardware, the capabilities of TurningPoint, the planned AV equipment for Hough Hall, the switch from G: and H: drives and the purchase of additional storage capacity.

These discussions resulted in some solutions, including a desktop icon to be used to notify of classroom equipment or software problems.

The committee's concrete ongoing responsibility is determining the winner of the Judy Fisher Teaching with Technology Award. The committee decided to split the inaugural award between Sandy Berg and Shubho Bandyopadhyay. The committee finalized the following description and procedures for determining future recipients:

Description of Award

Dr. Judy Fisher joined the College in January 2001 as an Instructional Technologist. She was the first person to bridge the gap between the faculty and the technology staff. Judy's background with a PhD in Instructional Technology coupled with over 25 years of business consulting in instructional design enabled her to have a profound effect on teaching with technology. In memory of the contributions of Dr. Judy Fisher to our teaching and learning environment, and to ensure that we continue to improve upon our current progress, the College has set up the Judy Fisher Teaching with Technology Award. This award will be given to the faculty member who has best exemplified teaching using technology over the past year. The amount of the award will be $1000.00.

Award Criteria

1. The technologies used engage students in interactive learning experiences based on sound pedagogical teaching and learning goals.

2. Interaction is encouraged for student to student, student to instructor and student to content.
3. The technologies used encourage students to be active learners.
4. A variety of appropriate technology tools are used to facilitate communication and learning.
5. The selection and use of media and technology are integrated with the course content.
6. The technologies used are either provided or easily obtained.
7. Instructions on how to use the technology resources are sufficient and easy to understand.

Process

1. Candidates for the award are nominated by the Academic Unit Heads and Program Directors based on information contained in their annual reports and teaching portfolios. More than one person may be nominated from a department or a unit.
2. The name of the nominee along with a copy of the section of their annual report relating to teaching activities is sent to the Director, Instructional Support.
3. The Director, Instructional Support and the College's Instructional Resources Committee will review the submissions and select the three that best exemplify the award criteria by evaluating the submissions based on the "Rubric for Online Instruction". Copy attached.
4. An overview of the teaching innovations of the finalists will be compiled by the Director, Instructional Support and a Teaching with Technology Spotlight will be distributed to all faculty and staff to showcase the work of these individuals.
5. A presentation of their work will be given by the Director, Instructional Support to the College's IR committee who will select the award Winner.
6. The award will be presented annually during January.

Timeline

1. In mid-April, the Director, Instructional Support requests Senior Associate Dean to send email to Academic Unit Heads and Program Directors reviewing the award criteria, soliciting nominations, and providing deadline date.
2. If it is not possible to incorporate this information into the annual evaluation form itself, the Senior Associate Dean also sends general email reminder to faculty about the award criteria and the use of the teaching section of annual evaluation for selection by departments at the same time Academic Unit Head reminder is sent. Nominations are due June 15.
3. In September, the Director, Instructional Support will bring nominations including written materials and teaching portfolios (or course materials for specialty faculty). The IR Committee will select the top 3 candidates.

4. The Director, Instructional Support will conduct brief interviews with each finalist candidate and put together a typical example of their use of innovation and produce a video (2-3 min max). This video will be featured in a Teaching with Technology Spotlight on the College website.
5. In November, the Director, Instructional Support presents a more in-depth presentation of the finalists' innovations to the College IR Committee. The IR committee selects the award recipient.
6. In January, the award is announced by the Associate Dean and the $1000 check presented.

Bill Bomberger August 12, 2009