Information Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2008, 1 PM

Attending:

Haldun Aytug
Bill Bomberger
Robin LeBoeuf
Jeff LePine
Tawnya Means
Andy Naranjo

Not attending:

Sandy Kramer

Bill Bomberger gave a brief description of the committee’s function and likely task for this academic year.

Tawnya Means recommended Sandy Berg and Shubho Bandyopadhyay for the January 2009 Judy Fisher Award and gave brief presentation on both. She pointed out that Shubho has used more recent technology but Sandy has used traditional technology in innovative ways.

Andy Naranjo asked if there was any student feedback to supplement the other information on the candidates. Tawnya said that there seemed to be none available and that she would like to see a question on the instructor evaluation questionnaire related to innovative use of appropriate technology.

Tawnya also mentioned her desire to use the occasion of the announcement of the award as a vehicle for getting faculty interested in the available teaching technology. She intends to link it to a location on a redesigned instructional technology section of the website containing some “how to” presentations. As the discussion proceeded Tawnya mentioned that she would like to have the ability to nominate future candidates. The committee agreed that the procedure would be changed to allow this.

The committee decided to split the award this year. Tawnya will develop her ideas regarding the announcement of the award and share them with the committee. The announcement will be made well before January so that it can have its effect before annual reports are completed next March.
Andy then began a discussion of the problems with equipment in STZ 102. They seem to have been experienced by all other members of the committee. Tawnya said that the systems in all the large Stuzin classrooms are complex and temperamental. There is also no backup. Her people are now talking to Creston regarding a new, more dependable system which will include backup hardware. She hopes this will be up and running fairly soon.

The discussion then turned to problems in MAT 120 (which were the basis for a committee recommendation last December, attached). Tawnya mentioned that Stuzin and Gerson have funds for equipment replacement provided by their donors but Matherly does not. Hence the problems with MAT 120 may be harder to eliminate.

There was also some discussion of issues with Mac’s and the Blackboard system. The contract with Blackboard will expire in a couple of years and a transition to some new version or system seems inevitable.

Meeting Adjourned 2:15 PM