

Information Resources Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2010, 12:00pm

Attending:

Haldun Aytug
Bill Bomberger
Jason Colquitt
Robyn LeBoeuf
Tawnya Means
Andy Naranjo
Eric Olsen

Not attending:

Sandy Kramer

Eric provided an update about equipment updating. The renovation of Stuzin Hall computers is ongoing (102 is done, 103 is done). The most glaring issues are being addressed first, and the effort is moving as fast as funding and room availability allows. The projectors in Gerson Hall have also been replaced. In general, equipment replacements are now being handled more proactively, and there is a larger staff associated with classroom maintenance.

The proportion of students using Mac's has increased significantly in recent years. This has begun to create some issues in some classes, especially ones that utilize Excel add-ons that do not run on Macs, or that utilize some Windows only software. One possible solution is to give students access to virtual machines, which would also be helpful when classes use software that is simply too expensive for students. How to charge to make that option available is unclear at this point, however. Moreover, some PhD students who are currently using virtual machines have complained about their performance, relative to standalone desktops.

Eric sent around a technology survey for IRC members to share with their units. Members should mail this survey out, compile responses, and send those responses to Eric in advance of the February 23rd meeting. We also discussed some anecdotal feedback we have gotten on technology issues, which largely consisted of concerns about CBAHelp response times in the wake of the staff restructuring. Eric encouraged us to contact Tom Parker if we have any concerns about CBAHelp performance. Eric also plans to reinstate the brief survey that accompanies the closing email on CBAHelp.

We began a preliminary discussion of the WRDS renewal. The amount that each department pays for the renewal depends roughly on the number of open accounts, though there is no strict formula. Eric will find out if the Deans need a recommendation for the committee on what those departmental commitments should be, percentage-wise. We will then discuss the issue next month.