Annual Report

CCSU Information Technology Committee
for AY 2013-14

Special Fall Election
Election of chair for 2013-14: Since the final ITC meeting fell before the results of the faculty senate's election, the election of a Chair was delayed from Spring 2013 until the first meeting of fall 2013. Charles Menoche was elected as Chair, vacating the Vice Chair. Gustavo Mejia was subsequently elected as Vice Chair.

Annual/reoccurring tasks 2013-2014

As has become a yearly task, the Software subcommittee solicited, evaluated, and ranked software requests for 2014-2015. It was noted that this year it was only able to approve upgrades and maintenance fees of software already in use on classes and labs. The subcommittee's suggestions were approved by the ITC.

The Hardware/Facilities Technology Subcommittee worked on experimenting with inexpensive hardware solutions for greater individual control of lights in classrooms (with hope of improving computer projection). The subcommittee also focused on finding new ways to collect data and requests for IT-related hardware and facilities needs/improvements. The committee noted that it is shifting towards improvements and maintenance activities since expansion needs and requests have slowed down significantly in the past few years.

Committee Activities (discussions and feedback)

Blackboard Learn website: Discussions with CCSU's ITS concerning the ongoing reliability challenges created by Blackboard Learn being recently moved back to the Central Office. The ITC supported the BOR's decision to move, during winter break, the hosting of Blackboard Learn from the Central Office back to the Blackboard company's services. The transfer happened smoothly and was up and running for the start of Spring 2014.

Throughout the year: the committee focused on a large number of ongoing IT-related questions, initiatives, and complaints: serving as a conduit and sounding board between the general University (faculty and administration) and CCSU's ITS. The most significant topics and items are listed below.

- Significance enhancing of wireless connectivity across campus
- Changes in the role and use of the VPN with a shift to greater reliance on Citrix for off-campus users

- Faculty and students requests for changes to standard installs of software on teacher stations and lab (e.g., adding Firefox back to the standard configuration)
- App Blocker, AppLocker, and similar applications: implementation and efforts to minimize resulting challenges for administration, teaching, and research
- Identity Finder implementation and support as requirements shifted to three times a year
- Ongoing implementation (in progress) of software audits on all CCSU-owned computers
- ITC-related aspects of the Emergency Notification Systems (ENS)
- New requirements for stronger passwords for CCSU accounts
- Requirements of additional login codes for tablets and smartphones for users wishing to connect to an e-mail client to CCSU's Exchange server
- Implementation of automatic cleaning/removal of files and preferences from identities on shared computers after a set time of inactivity
- CCSU faculty participation in 2014 ECAR National Faculty Technology Study for the first time
- Re-introduction of SafeAssign as a tool for faculty and new guidelines for syllabi
- Availability of temporary replacement computers and improvements by ITS in order to reduce the time necessary for return of confiscated CCSU-owned computers
- Discussion to continue to monitor concerns of confidentiality of research subjects

Initial Goals for AY 2014-15

Invite the System Office's new CIO to campus to meet with the ITC.

Again hold special elections in the fall after the ITC is refreshed.

Explore revising ITC bylaws to hold elections in the fall of each semester (rather than the spring).

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Menoche, Chair ITC