CCSU Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee
Report of the 2009-2010 Academic Year

Highlights:

Minutes available on the ITC website: http://www.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=4931

Fall 2009

- **ITC website migrated to CCSU's FinalSite CMS**
- **Laptop security policy statement approved** by the ITC on 9/4/2010 (approved by Faculty Senate, 1/25/2010) – text of the policy available at: http://web.ccsu.edu/facsenate/Reports20092010/IT%20PolicyLaptopSecurity.htm
- **New Procedures for Collecting and Reviewing Classroom/Lab Software Requests** – ITC developed and implemented new procedures for gathering, evaluating and ranking requests. This year faculty submitted over $100,000.00 in requests for new software or upgrades/maintenance, which were reviewed and ranked by the ITC Software Committee. Existing software commitments that impacted the greatest number of students were designated as the highest priority and paid with IT funds. The remaining requests for new software will be funded through Academic Affairs and IT budget lines, but with the proviso that continued funding next fiscal year is not assured.
- **Hybrid/Distance Education ITC Task Force Formed** – Led by David Blitz, the task force is charged with developing a rationale for distance education, identifying and addressing questions and areas of concern, and developing an action plan for CCSU. The formation of this task force was initiated by Provost Lovitt an April 2009 ITC meeting, during which he encouraged the ITC to assume a stronger role in determining the course of distance/hybrid learning at CCSU. The Task Force's preliminary report (Dec. 2009) is available at the following URL: http://bertie.ccsu.edu/online/ .
- **Strategic Plan Task Force Formed** – This group was assembled to examine the goals/objectives of the University's strategic plan which pertain to academic/instructional uses of technology with an eye toward meeting those stated objectives. The Task Force made the following recommendations:

    a. Promote use of educational technologies
    b. Identify funding sources for conference and workshop attendance

        c. Pursue grants for online course development and management

        d. Develop core freshman competencies for computing and information literacy.

Spring 2010

- **Exploration of Alternatives to Marcus White Computer Classrooms** – The pending closure of the Marcus White Mac and PC Classrooms, scheduled for the fall 2010 semester, was brought to the ITC's attention in late December 2009. Given the impact on teaching faculty, who have relied on the MW computer classrooms for occasional use, it was added to the agenda of the February 5, 2010 meeting. Concerned faculty as well as representatives from IT, Academic Affairs and the Registrar's Office were invited to attend. According to Bob Cernock, the proposed elimination of the rooms was necessitated by growing student demand for lab computers. However, given the high demand for computer classrooms, a consensus was reached to formally recommend postponing the closings and creating a subcommittee to explore alternatives. The motion passed, and the request for postponement until December 2010 was approved by the CIO and President Miller. The ITC convened a subcommittee immediately with the goal of identifying other alternatives to accommodate the faculty need for occasional computer-equipped classroom-like space. To that end, the subcommittee developed and administered a faculty needs assessment survey for occasional computer classroom space and is in the process of reviewing the responses. The committee is also reviewing data on existing classroom space (capacity and room utilization) supplied by the Registrar to identify a room(s) that could be used in substitution for the spaces in Marcus White.
- **Pilot of external web host for PHP/MySQL applications –** A resolution was passed at the April 9, 2010 meeting to commence a faculty pilot designed to encourage and support the use of Open Source PHP/MySQL applications such as WordPress and Drupal at CCSU. David Blitz will head a working group composed of ITC members to provide technical support for the pilot.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Herman
ITC Chair, 2009-2010