Academic Information Technology Committee  
Library Conference Room  
February 1, 2013, 8:00am

Present: Deb Schroeder, Thomas Freeman (secretary), Nanette Hogg (chair), Jon Ritterbush, Jimmy Young and Janet Wilke and by phone Brenda Eschenbrenner and Scott Fredrickson

Absent: Kenzie Fisher (student representative)

1. Request by Faculty Senate via Dawn Mollenkopf for information relating to student use of electronic textbooks (eBooks)
   a. Deb Schroeder extracted questions from an ECARS survey of undergraduate students conducted by Educause. The survey results include both UNK and national data as they pertain to student use or acceptance of electronic publications or eBooks. Survey questions and results are attached for forwarding to Faculty Senate. (Attached)
   b. Deb Schroeder noted that UNK does not plan on participating in the next ECARS survey, but will be developing a UNK-specific survey. While still in the planning stages, the next survey will likely include a greater cross section of UNK students (undergraduate, graduate, distance, etc.).
   c. There was no memory of faculty surveys on the use of eBooks, eReaders or related technology. The committee briefly discussed the possibility of surveying faculty about the use of eBooks, but may not be necessary since it is usually the students' choice.
   d. The Library is purchasing / providing access to ebooks, and in some cases working with faculty regarding selections.

2. Response from Institutional Research to AIT questions pertaining to Digital Measures Activity Insight
   a. The committee discussed the response by Institutional Research to their questions about the adoption and implementation of Digital Measures Activity Insight. Overall, the responses lacked detail or did not address the intent of the questions asked, but as Kathy Livingston is out of the office due to illness and administrative staff completed the responses, the committee had some understanding for the level of information provided. Also, since the responses were provided entirely by non-faculty, the ability to respond to concerns related to shared governance during the adoption of the system may have been difficult to address. The responses to AIT questions about Digital Measures are attached.
   b. As it is apparent from the responses provided that Digital Measures will be moving forward; therefore, the committee deemed discussion of adoption of the software as non-productive and focused discussion on faculty issues relating to the implementation of Digital Measures. Specifically, faculty and programs would benefit from clarification of the following:
      - The shared governance regarding the process for rank and tenure?
      - Has a committee of faculty members, representing each college, met?
      - Timeline for faculty entering data into the system?
• Source of funding ... transfer of expense to colleges and departments in the future?
• Copyright issues related to any artifacts (publications) that do not belong to faculty?
• Policy for dissemination, and access to, faculty-provided information (might impact what one would voluntarily enter into the system)?
• Contact information for system's administrator and training of those providing faculty with support during and after implementation?
• Expanding on the role in annual review and promotion and tenure (esp. given that these processes have not previously involved Institutional Research)?

3. Update on NU breach of computers
   a. Deb Schroeder offered an update on the status of the breach of NU computer systems that occurred in May of 2012.
   b. Preliminary hearings occurred in early January, and the responsible individual is facing trial.
   c. Further action by the courts is scheduled for March 13th.

4. Frequency of changing passwords and password policy
   a. Deb Schroeder noted that state audits consistently find problems with the strength of passwords and the frequency of password change. While this is largely due to some software-specific limitations on the length of passwords, it is likely that the current practice of frequently changing strong passwords will remain for the foreseeable future.
   b. However, in the distant future, UNK may utilize "federation" in cooperation with other UN campuses to develop a system of password-based credentials which would be trusted by several computer systems. This is very difficult to implement, but would have the advantage of a single password:username pair for gaining access to multiple systems (such as access to UNL's and UNO's Blackboard systems with only one user name and password).
   c. A potential disadvantage of providing access to multiple systems with a single user name and password is that several systems could potentially be affected by a single breech in password security.

5. Data center update
   a. In December, the whole-room uninterrupted power supplies (UPS) were installed and are working as expected.
   b. The data center is in much better shape with much improved environmental controls and ongoing plans for replacement of damaged equipment.

6. Update on the iPad teaching initiative
   a. Fifty-two faculty are teaching 104 sections of iPad enhanced courses in Spring 2013 with and enrollment of 1680 students (1098 actual students with some students taking multiple
iPad courses).

b. Upgrades to technology enabled classrooms continues, as funding becomes available, to increase compatibility and connectivity with mobile devices (both for instructors and students).

c. Last semester, ~880 iPad-Minis and ~123 iPads were returned. Virtually all have been re-loaned, but a few are available as spares to replace damaged or defective units.

d. Deb Schroeder brought up some difficulties related to the repair and replacement of iPads damaged by students. Students are required to pay for damage exceeding more than normal wear and tear, and the breaking of the touch screen's glass has been the most common item damaged ($200-300 for repair). She communicated the idea of providing optional self-funded insurance to cover damage. In brief, students would have the option of purchasing an insurance policy to defray the student's expense if a device was damaged. A preliminary estimate suggests the cost to the student would be about $15 per semester per device.

e. A motion was made by Janet Wilke and seconded by Jimmy Young as follows:

**Academic Information and Technology recommend that the feasibility of offering students insurance to cover a portion of the expense resulting from damage to a loaned mobile device be investigated by Business Services**

Motion passed.

7. Discussion on Futures section of Technology Plan, deferred until next meeting

8. Next meeting Friday, March 1, 2013 at 8:00am.