

IT Steering Committee notes, Meeting 2 on June 24th at 10am in Wood Center B

Committee Members Present:

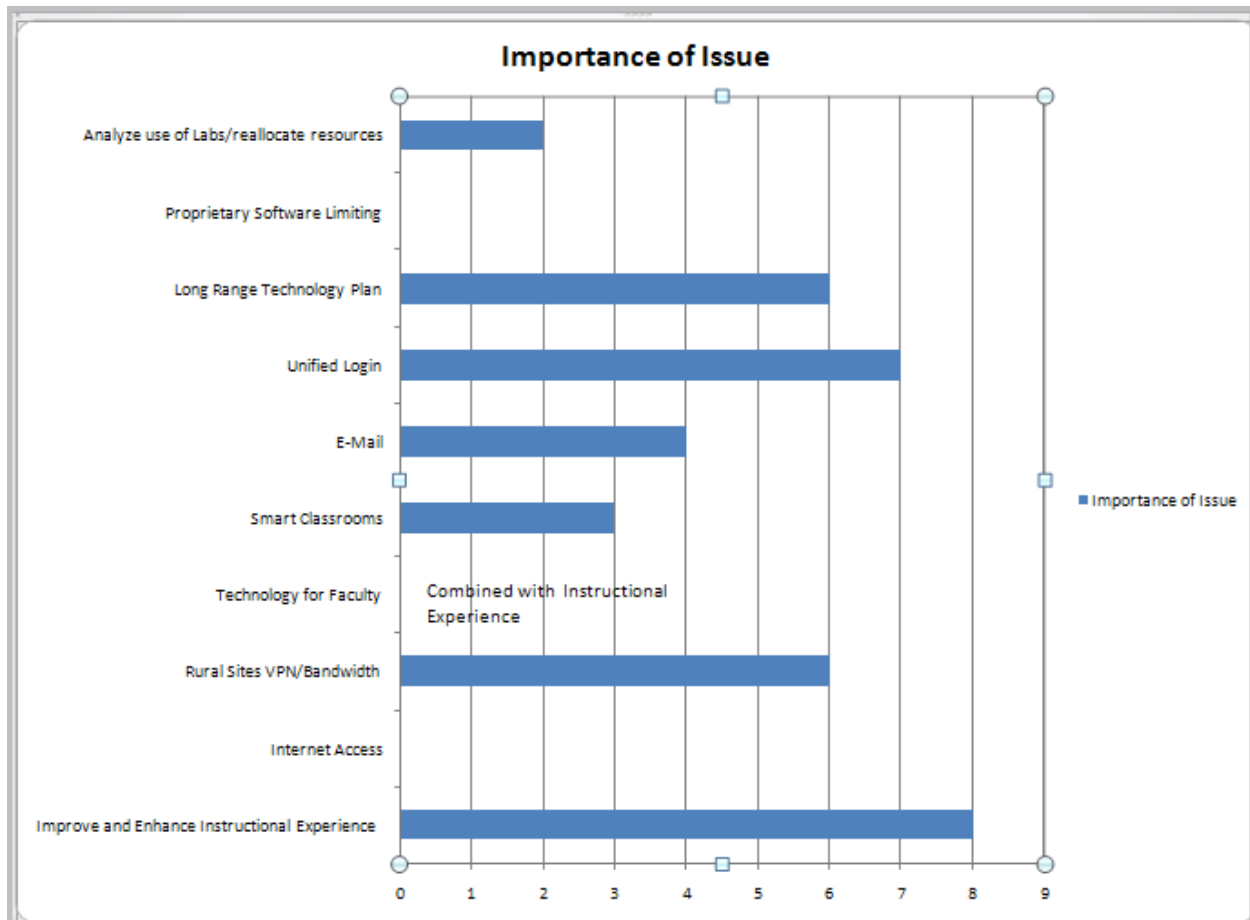
James Elieff
Kelly Gitter
Karl Kowalski
Julie Larweth
Curt Madison
Jamie Schwartzwald
Carl Shepro
Lynne Snifka
Doug Toelle
Bryan Uher
Kortnie Westfall

Agenda

- Ranking Exercise
- Welcome-Introduction of new guests
- Comments from the Public
- Review of Minutes of last meeting
- Identification/prioritization of key issues
- Future State
- Action items

The group began by ranking the 10 issues identified at the previous meeting. There was discussion around the topic of technology for faculty being closely tied to improving and enhancing the instructional experience and the group decided to merge the two issues. The group also discussed the concept that email issues were closely tied to unified login, but that email issues were greater than just login and thus did not merge those two. The group also thought that Smart Classroom issues were tied to improving and enhancing the instructional experience, but decided to keep that issue separate as the group felt it had to do more with standardization of equipment and functionality and acquisition than the act or behavior of enhancing instruction.

Each member received 4 votes and was asked to place a sticker on the issue he/she felt was most important to address in the next two years.



The group then began to address each of the issues. We addressed the four top issues in the time that we had:

- Improving/Enhancing the Instructional Experience
- Unified Login
- Rural Sites VPN/Bandwidth Issues
- Long Range Technology Plan

Each member wrote a description of the ideal situation, or future state, of that issue. Those descriptions are below.

1. Technology for Faculty & Improve/enhance Instructional Experience
 - a. Whenever UAF adopts a new technology for teaching, training is offered to all faculty, and the training is well advertised.
 - b. Basic Blackboard instruction (1/2 day or so) required as part of the new faculty orientation, established faculty required to attend a similar (short!) session.
 - c. Faculty should be required to go through something similar to CDE's iTeach, a multi-day introduction to technologies usable to enhance learning. This hands-on experience removes much of the fear/ignorance associated 2/using new tech.

- d. Faculty would be aware of the available technology and use it.
 - e. Faculty would understand and utilize technology in their classrooms to engage and teach students
 - f. Training faculty on types of multimedia approaches to teach their classes, and also when to use then(or not)
 - g. Faculty development is built into tenure; schools are provided funds to upgrade technology/provide laptops(or preferred desktop) and shown some collaborative tools(Bb, Elive!, etc)
 - h. There becomes an incentive for using tech and students can provide feedback so educational and tech needs are met.
 - i. Equal technology(laptops) provided to faculty
 - j. Integrate media/web literacy into library 101 class(and require it for freshmen)
 - k. Faculty knows technology has appropriate equipment uses when appropriate support.
 - l. It would take 15 minutes for a professor/group of students to get the projectors/computers/DVD/VHS players to work.
 - m. Incent faculty to use tech/develop tech courses
 - n. Center for faculty excellence
2. Unified Login ID

- a. One logon/password for:
 - i. Email/webmail
 - ii. Smart classrooms
 - iii. UA online/MyUA
 - iv. Blackboard
- b. No more FF, FS, FN email addresses. How about first initial, last name@uaf.edu
- c. One ID (intuitive like jsmith or student ID #) that corresponds with email, blackboard, UA Online, library, computer labs, registering computer to network.
- d. One password for all logins. That way if it has to change, you will use it for something and remember it.
- e. Automatically provision and decommission accounts as people become affiliated with the U and leave the U.
- f. Unified login ID to campus network.
- g. All UA affiliates would get access to all UA sites with one login. As to simplify and encourage the user of programs like My UA
- h. One username/password to get into:
 - i. Blackboard
 - ii. Email
 - iii. Ua Online
- i. My UA isn't bad, just needs some cosmetic and navigational improvements
- j. There is a one stop shop for students, faculty, and staff that apply across the system for each MAU, summer sessions and distance education. I.e. I can log in here, in Juneau or in Kotzebue the same way to access university services and educational needs.

Eliminate UA Online or portal; choose 1 please to locate everything where functionally appropriate.

3. VPN Bandwidth Access to Rural sites

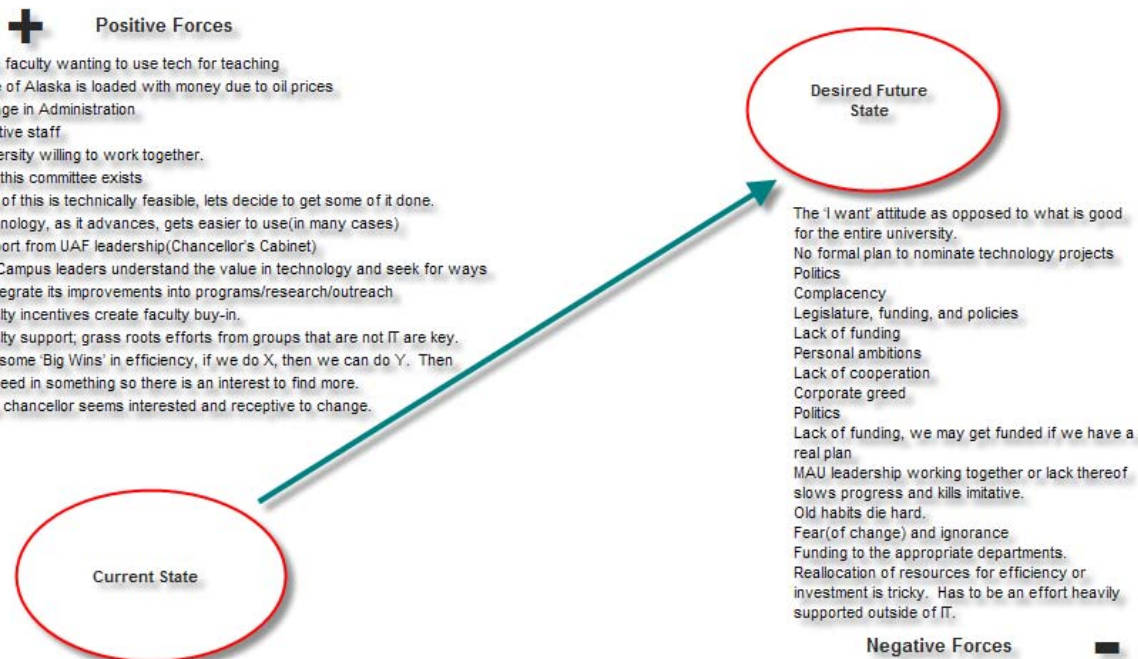
- a. Anything more than what it has right now
- b. Students in rural areas shouldn't be limited by lack of internet access. Lobby legislators to allow college students to use local schools internet access.
- c. Faster internet so that staff/faculty/students can use the programs offered by the University.
- d. Low Latency
- e. A video conference between Bethel and Fairbanks would be the same quality as a vide conference between Fairbanks and Anchorage.
- f. Students from all villages in AK that are part of the UA system would be able to take any class offered online by not being limited by their bandwidth.
- g. VPN connections are easy and reliable and intuitive
- h. Bandwidth/wireless to all
- i. Cap bandwidth use where needed so all rural sites and main campus get consistent/reliable service before 'speed'
- j. Media/computer literacy training at beginning of CDE classes for students who may not be computer savvy
- k. Enough bandwidth to provide distance Ed classes to remote Alaskans.
- l. Keep traditional (mail-based) course available if possible, or offer classes in which the professor will work with both online and mail-based students.

4. Long Range Plan for Technology

- a. This plan will set goals that UAF will strive for to better serve its students/faculty/staff in the area of technology
- b. Provides guidance for:
 - i. Network priorities
 - ii. Faculty development
 - iii. Implementation of new technologies
- c. Outlines the roadmap to provide services to faculty. It would identify specific objectives and how to get there. It would include a communications plan and solicit faculty input
- d. This plan would map out new technologies that would be implemented in the future and list dates on when they would be in production and stick to them.
- e. Outlines both concrete goals(What technology do we want in 5 years?) and mission based(to keep the university near the forefront of innovation, etc) Plan would be continually updated
- f. A 5 year business plan that identifies current technology costs, implementation and use. The plan would look to the future by identifying rising costs in technology.

- g. Plan funding or at least prioritizing where funding should go within specified time frames.
 - h. A plan that is linked to campus strategic plans that demonstrates some achievable goals. That we actually work towards achieving. It would include faculty development, updating freshman/student tech requirements, reliability, refresh, efficiencies, outreach and investment for future improvements.
 - i. This plan provides a 10-year forecast for where the campus will be with regard to technology. The "long range technology plan coordinator" position would be created along with an interdisciplinary committee. The coordinator would provide quarterly reports to the committee on his/her technology research and recommendations; Where we are, where we're going and what we need(\$\$, staff, etc.)
5. Internet Access
6. Smart Classrooms
- a. Input from faculty on what type of technology they would like to use for teaching
7. Proprietary software limiting
8. Email
9. Analyze use of Labs
10. Socializing Technology

One member made a comment that one of the issues was a "political one." That led to a discussion of identifying Positive Forces that will help or can be leveraged to achieve our ideal future state and Negative Forces that may need to be addressed.



Where we are now and where we want to go.

- I. Positive influences
 - a. More faculty wanting to use tech for teaching
 - b. State of Alaska is loaded with money due to oil prices
 - c. Change in Administration
 - d. Creative staff
 - e. University willing to work together.
 - f. That this committee exists
 - g. A lot of this is technically feasible, lets decide to get some of it done.
 - h. Technology, as it advances, gets easier to use(in many cases)
 - i. Support from UAF leadership(Chancellor's Cabinet)
 - j. The Campus leaders understand the value in technology and seek for ways to integrate its improvements into programs/research/outreach
 - k. Faculty incentives create faculty buy-in.
 - l. Faculty support; grass roots efforts from groups that are not IT are key.
 - m. Find some 'Big Wins' in efficiency, if we do X, then we can do Y. Then succeed in something so there is an interest to find more.
 - n. New chancellor seems interested and receptive to change.
- II. Negative influences.
 - a. The 'I want' attitude as opposed to what is good for the entire university.
 - b. No formal plan to nominate technology projects
 - c. Politics
 - d. Complacency
 - e. Lack of funding

- f. Legislature funding and policies
- g. Lack of funding
- h. Personal ambitions
- i. Lack of cooperation
- j. Corporate greed
- k. Politics
- l. Lack of funding, we may get funded if we have a real plan
- m. MAU leadership working together or lack thereof slows progress and kills initiative.
- n. Old habits die hard.
- o. Fear(of change) and ignorance
- p. Funding to the appropriate departments.
- q. Reallocation of resources for efficiency or investment is tricky. Has to be an effort heavily supported outside of IT.

These were identified not as a means to gripe, but as an awareness as we move forward identifying specific actions to achieve the ideal future state.

The group agreed to do some email correspondence over the week regarding specific action items. Karl will get the minutes and draft recommendation statements to the committee. The recommendation statements will come from the "ideal state" descriptors that the committee wrote.

The next meeting will be July 1, 2008. Location will be announced once confirmed.