

Information Technology Committee
October 21, 2015 via Google Hangouts
Julie Cascio called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. ADT

Attendees:

Julie Cascio, Joanne Healy, Falk Huettmann, Rorik Peterson, Siri Tuttle, Martha Mason ex officio,

Not present: Bill Barnes, Eric Collins, Alba Ruth Prato, Chris Lott ex officio, Debra Kouda ex officio

Google group for this committee was created.

uaf-faculty-it-committee <uaf-faculty-it-committee@alaska.edu>

OIT Follow up report on phone connections – Martha Mason

- Phone lines have been removed from classrooms because each costs \$260 per year. Phones such as Polycoms were brought from individual units for use in the classroom. Reichart, Gruening and Brooks had analog lines that were disconnected. CRCO reconnected four rooms in Brooks.
- A suggestion was made that OIT staff need to see what the problems are before trying to fix issues. This also helps them understand how technology is being used in the room.
- Use of the videoconferencing in classrooms, even just using it for the audio has been problematic. For example, Biology and Wildlife Tenure and Promotion Committee could not get the audio-conference to work. They ended up using their own laptops with Skype. For more details, Martha could talk with Kristine Mooder, as she has details about the difficulties experienced.
- Another option might be trying to understand the problematic rooms.
- A comment was made that use of Blackboard Collaborate with students around the state has been successful
- Martha will connect with Joanne to see about needs for connecting with Ethernet in classrooms.

OIT faculty engagement - Debra Kouda was not present

Faculty 180 - Alex Fitts and Michelle Strickland

- A faculty senate committee headed by Eric Madsen led the research into choosing a database system for faculty reporting. This committee reviewed several products, with opportunities for faculty input along the way.
- *Benefit of Faculty 180 system* –
Archives the information,
Reports can be run for specified periods of time. This will be beneficial eventually for doing comprehensive reports.
- At the administrative level, deans may be able to access the information without having to go back to the faculty again and again to find it.
- *Limitations* –
- There is an initial learning process that faculty need to get through to enter

information.

- Entering information into the Faculty 180 database takes time.
- Another learning process is the general understanding of using a database vs. word processing document.
- Drawback with the software itself, as it has some quirks. Several screens must be navigated to add data, to review, and to edit it.
- One frustration heard by the committee was that Teaching/Class information entered into the system was not accurate. Michelle said this info is extracted from Banner and uploaded manually. If the class is not correct in Faculty 180, then it is because the instructor in Banner is not correct. Accurate information in Banner will be more and more important including correct start and end dates, as this is also used for electronic evaluation. Correcting banner records are done through the Dean and Registrar. For Faculty 180 questions or corrections, contact Michelle Strickland or Alex Fitts.
- A frustration brought up at the faculty senate administrative committee meeting was that there was not a forum for feedback on the system. There are several ways. In addition to contacting Michelle or Alex, other options are to use the link at the Provosts website to submit a google form, use the link in Faculty 180 to contact the company, or submit a support ticket.
- A concern brought forward was with the safety of information put into the system. Everything on the internet is likely to be hacked at some time, including this database. Also, the university email is a google system, so that is available to others. Faculty evaluations do not currently go into the Faculty 180 system but when they do, privacy will be an issue. Martha talked about the firewalls in place.
- Dean should pull up the information for evaluation after the faculty member has submitted it.

Feedback on use of Zoom and google hangouts

- Overall comments were positive. Audio/visual seemed to work better with zoom than google hangouts for some. The internet connection for each participant will impact their experience. Having all mute their microphones except for the person speaking seems to help with the issue of echoes.

Items for next month's agenda

- Security report – Martha will request the chief security officer address the information on technology safety, where UAF stands on this issue, how many hacking events recently or currently, also include hacking into video conferencing system. Focus on safety of personal information such as is in Faculty 180.
- OIT feedback on videoconferencing – Martha
- OIT faculty engagement - Debra Kouda
- Roll of phone company when advising people or meetings at a distance. Falk will connect with some phone companies and ask them to give a brief report.

Next meeting November 18, 10 a.m. via Skype group – Rorik will facilitate
January 20, 10 a.m. meeting via Blackboard Collaborate, Joanne will facilitate
The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.