

Faculty Senate Technology Committee (FSTC) Report 2011-2012

MEMBERS, GUESTS:

SCHOOL/COLLEGE	MEMBER
Architecture & the Arts	Catherine Rand
Arts & Sciences	Mark Szuchman
Business Admin.	Gerard Klonarides
Education	Maria Lovett
Engineering	Faisal Kaleem
Hospitality	Joseph Cilli
Journalism	Elizabeth Marsh
Law	Hannibal Travis
Library	Marissa Ball (Chair)
Medicine	Rene Herrera
Nursing & Health Sciences	Steve Bernstein
Public Health	Vijaya Narayanan
Chief Information Officer	Robert Grillo, Ex-Officio
Dir. Media & Tech. Support	Debra Sheridan, Ex-Officio

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION BY FACULTY SENATE

None.

MATTERS DISCUSSED IN FALL 2011 SEMESTER

General discussions regarding desired improvements in PantherSoft systems were a frequent occurrence, as were discussions regarding security/compliance. The latter topic led to a meeting with FIU IT Security Officer Cheryl Grant, at the request of Faculty Senate.

Sensitive Technology and UTS Security – This discussion is in reference to a concern that UTS is trying to develop a policy regarding data computer files containing what UTS calls “sensitive information.” It’s not clear what that means

but it may mean that IT people in each school are to do an inventory of all files and those files may contain sensitive information.

A committee member expressed the sentiment that this policy seems to be chaotic and one which was approved by an administrator without thinking about it first or asking other universities what they do. This may make it difficult for researchers to collaborate with people off campus like other universities.

There may also be some academic freedom issues here and it seems the faculty should have a voice or input. Assuming faculty are responsibly protecting their data properly, what can the institution do to protect data without compromising the promises that have been made to funding agencies or clients by PIs and still maintain the ability to share information with co-investigators? It was agreed to send a summary of the discussion to the Technology Committee for further discussion on this matter.

Since the meeting, the Division of IT has begun implementing additional security measures and mandatory training, FSTC was assured that faculty would be advised and consulted of future security procedures/measures.

MATTERS DISCUSSED IN SPRING 2012 SEMESTER

Ongoing discussions and confusion regarding the University's move towards adopting Moodle or BlackBoard Learn 9 were also a frequent topic of conversation.

Difficulties with consistent/regular representation from UTS proved to be problematic as the year progressed.

Discussions regarding alternatives to face-to-face meetings and requirements for the number of meetings required for the FSTC were also had. It was decided that meetings would be called and held on an as-needed basis and at the request of Faculty Senate, with the recommendation that the committee meet at least once per semester.

Respectfully submitted,
Marissa Ball
Chair, Faculty Senate Technology Committee, 2012