Minutes of Meeting May 5th, 2010

Approved June 2nd, 2010

Final

Committee Attendees: Austin, Boyd, Grisham, Jansma, Lew, Liggett (Chair), Loeher, Pires, Smallberg, Snyder, Steen, Walker Guest: Jim Davis, Rob Rodgers

1. Quick topics
   a. Notes from April meeting approved with no revisions
   b. Additional Bruincast Anthro 7 data: At the April Meeting, the committee thought it would be interesting to do a check on students’ self reported usage of Bruincast against their actual usage. Mike Franks from Social Sciences Computing was able to do a rough check using Anthro 7’s course page. Data showed that there were 266 unique users to the course page. This is consistent with the 270 users from Joanne Valli-Marill’s survey data. Furthermore, there were 2217 hits to links to webcasts from the Anthro 7 course page which seems to reinforce the self-reported ‘likelihood of using webcast when available’ of 22% Likely and 44% Very Likely.
   c. Five members of the FCET will be rotating off at the end of this academic year. Please email any suggestions for new members to the committee or interest in being Chair for 2010-2011.
   d. Michelle Lew will be drafting a summary of issues the FCET has discussed this past year. This will be sent out the committee for further comment and reflection at our final June meeting. This document will then be finalized over the summer and forwarded to the ITPB in time for their Fall 2010 meeting.
   e. There are plans to have a student representative on the FCET as well as the CCLE’s Standards and Practices Group.

2. Jim Davis – Vice Provost, Information Technology

For the past 10 years Jim Davis has held the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology. This is commonly thought of as the CIO for the campus. This role usually means being in charge of things like infrastructure, administrative computing, networks and email. As he spoke with others around the country he found that 99% of other CIOs spent their time on networks and email related IT with much smaller amounts on research and education related IT. Jim lobbied Scott Waugh and Gene Block to allow him to transform his role into something more about research and educational IT. They agreed and Jim is no longer Associate Vice Chancellor – IT, he has given up some infrastructure responsibilities so that he can take on a more academic focus as Vice Provost for IT.
Why make this change in focus now? Jim feels there is enormous growth in demand for CPU and storage for research and the research workflow. From a grant standpoint there is $200M-$300M worth of research grants that have High Performance Computing (HPC) needs. This has been growing significantly over the past year. From an educational standpoint the WASC accreditation process with its focus on an educational technology theme made this clear. Finally the budget situation on campus has put some focus on IT. Many of you are aware of the campus restructuring committee and the report they issued (http://evc.ucla.edu/reports). It looked at things like adjusting credit hours, dealing with over-enrolled courses, distance education, the increased use of summer sessions and helping programs have a greater reach in to the community. Jim feels UCLA is positioned from an IT standpoint to take those things forward. UCLA is fortunate to have an IT governance structure in place to sort through these and weigh in on the implementation. In addition to the campus budget reports, UCLA also issued an IT Strategic Plan. This plan can be boiled down to 4 different areas:

1) Virtualization of scholarly interaction. Things like remote access and online education
2) Digital Citizens. This includes IT literacy, ethical behavior and security
3) Innovation. Creating a culture of IT Innovation, keeping people up to date as well as having them contribute their innovations back in (e.g. data sets). What experiences are useful and can they be shared with the campus community. His group has been experimenting with creating “strike teams” on areas like help desks for emeriti faculty.
4) Institutional Stewardship. This is sort of the institutional analog to a digital citizen. If you are department XYZ how does what you do in IT affect others on campus. Begin to treat IT as an Institutional Asset.

Jim’s new role involves these sorts of issues. He wants to make them tangible and drive them from a research and educational standpoint and less from an infrastructure standpoint. To this end, he is looking at things like E-Lectures (e.g., under what circumstances do you use them) and Mobile Applications for iPhones and cell phones. What would be useful? Is there a need for institutional policy regarding iphone/mobile development?

Also, getting information out to faculty, linking faculty research. Let’s say someone has a good idea in Computer Science, can the campus use this? Or perhaps you see lots of need on campus, can you point to areas on campus that can help or even take that on. So for example IDRE is a case of Jim’s office taking on the issue of computation and storage needs. Members commented that it would be useful to know what expertise exists on the campus (e.g., advanced voice recognition).
The yellow and blue boxes above represent funded projects going on right now. In the upper left, the IT Plan and Restructuring Committee came up with some 200 recommendations for different ways to cut the budget and gain efficiencies. Fifty of those projects are going into detailed analysis for implementation. One of them just went into effect. Most of you saw the notice about the reduction in print mail deliveries on campus that was announced earlier this week. Of those 50 projects, 20 or so are IT related. The IT plan came out at around the same time as the toolbox reports and those two were synchronized so that they are now the same. The IT Plans executive sponsors are Sam Morabito, Jim Davis, Steve Olsen, Chris Waterman and Virginia McFerrin. Oversight of these rests with the ITPB who will set up reviews and this is where the FCET would play in. Huron Consulting has also been hired and they are tracking the projects.

The left hand side are infrastructure type things. Research Admin, Financial System replacement and Electronic Medical Records are large projects on the order of $50M-$100M each. The lower left, with data centers and IT inventory, are planning projects and will be followed by Enterprise Messaging (campus-wide email based upon Microsoft Exchange) and Network services. Outsourcing Email right now is looking at Google mail for students and alumni.

Jim is transitioning from this left hand side to the right hand side.

On the right hand side IDRE/HPC/Informatics are working on issues around databases, storage and archiving and to begin understanding the ownership and management of these. Some areas this committee is already familiar with are also on the right hand side like CCLE and Intellectual Property like the recent issue with Video Furnace. In the category of Research Support we get at the notion of virtual research teams, mobile and wireless technology and bringing those together well. For Help Desks, we are working to try and see the patterns of questions on campus. The help desk is a good communication
mechanism since they are at the point of need (however subject to high variability). Faculty and Senate Applications is looking at applications to get information out to faculty in a better way e.g., Senate voting.

The yellow boxes represent more process or workflow and the blue is the infrastructure that supports it. Jim has focused on the infrastructure and now he will focus on how you aim it well.