

Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee Annual Report

August 2017-May 2018

Chair: Simon Tarr (School of Visual Art and Design)

The committee consists of eight elected members: including the chair, Andrea Benigni (Electrical Engineering), Mark Ferguson (Business), Douglas Meade (Mathematics), Susan Rathbun-Grubb (Library and Information Science), Sophya Garashchuk (Chemistry), Heather Heckman (Libraries), Zhenlong Li (Geography). In addition there are also two student members: Joseph Bass (Undergraduate Student) and Clint Saidy (Graduate Student).

There are also six ex-officio appointed members: Michelle Foster (ex-officio, UTS), Phil Moore (ex-officio, Research Cyberinfrastructure), Glenn Bunton (ex-officio, University Libraries), Debbie Kassianos (ex-officio, VPR's office), Cheryl Addy (ex-officio, Provost's Office), Aaron Marterer (ex-officio, Registrar).

This report is a summary of the meetings and major actions of the Senate IT Committee for the 2017-18 academic year.

Meetings, invited guests, and topics:

2017-10-04: Reviewed last year's work and planned topics for the coming year. Decided on some short term priorities to invite guests to report, and larger strategic priorities, including an analysis of the scope, scale, and charge of the committee per its description.

2017-10-26: Past Senate Chair Augie Grant presented the results and analysis of high performance computing needs of faculty and graduate students. Further discussion indicated a need for a more regular and comprehensive survey of uses. Reported results of survey to Provost and CIO.

2017-11-9: Janeen Blanton from DoIT presented about IT service delivery and support (SDS), indicating that DoIT is not satisfied with the current state of SDS, and explained the larger plan for improvement.

2017-11-30: Claire Robinson and Brian Dufel from the University Advising Center presented about EAB/Pathfinder and DegreeWorks applications, their deployment across units, and the roadmap for increasing effectiveness.

2018-01-24: CIO Doug Foster presented on the University's IT strategic priorities for the next 4 years. With this information, committee resolved to comprehensively revisit the purpose of the committee to be a more effective partner, shifting from a info gathering committee for holding people's feet to the fire, to a proactive planning committee working with the CIO on behalf of the faculty.

2018-02-14: Discussions of the potential third Research Computing Symposium logistics.

2018-02-28: Reiterated to committee members status of email access to affiliate (and retired) members of community. Committee resolved that Classroom Enhancement Space Committee should have adequate faculty representation, but should not be the purview of this committee. Committee resolved that revised description should include strategic data collection, but not become a catch-all complaint resolution body (we don't do tech support).

2018-03-23: Committee resolved to set research computing symposium date for late September. Committee created subcommittee to begin work on annual survey to be distributed in Fall with Provost's permission, after committee description revision changes. Committee offered to support and advise CIO on crafting new RCI Directorship position description.

2018-04-11: Discussion of University acquisition of Blackboard Ally, and the need for further information and committee consultation. Discussed passing of RSCH 1.05 policy change, and the need again for further information and committee consultation. Discussed general need to communicate the committee's position on shared governance (that it's a good thing) to all parties making IT decisions that affect faculty. Discussion of Research Cyberinfrastructure directorship position.

2018-04-25: Final vote on revised committee description. Tarr elected chair 2018-19.

Online Committee Work May and June 2018: Committee decided to cancel upcoming research computing symposium and reconvene to discuss higher impact endeavors.