

Computing Resources Committee

Annual Report 2013-2014

To: President, OSU Faculty Senate
From: Stuart Sarbacker & Victor Hsu, Co-Chairs, Computing Resources Committee
Subject: 2013-2014 Computing Resources Committee Annual Report Submitted: August 25, 2014

Charge

The Computing Resources Committee reviews and recommends policy concerning technology as used by faculty in instruction, research, and service on campus and off campus. It assists in planning and advocating for the necessary technology to maximize student learning and enhance faculty research and service activities to OSU and the wider community. It acts to advise other committees and Information Services as well as providing leadership in adoption and effective use of computing for instruction, research, and service. The Committee shall consist of six Faculty, at least four of whom must be Teaching Faculty, and two Students, and the following ex-officio, non-voting members: the Vice Provost for Information Services or a designated representative, and a representative from Technology Across the Curriculum (TAC). The Vice Provost for Information Services may recommend a resource person from Information Services as another ex-officio, non-voting member. The CRC chair serves as an ex-officio member of the Information Technology Coordinating Committee (ITCC).

Membership – 2013-2014

Stuart Sarbacker, Co-Chair '14, Philosophy
Victor Hsu, Co-Chair '15, Biochemistry
Robert Reff (v. Myles) '14, Student Health Services
Amy Flint '15, Registrar's Office
Paula Weiss '16, Chemistry
Bill Loges '16 New Media Communications

Ex-Officios:

Vice Provost for Information Services (Lois Brooks)
Information Services (David Barber)
Technology Across the Curriculum (Jon Dorbolo), ITCC Liaison for CRC

Student Members:

Everett Bouwer, New Media Communications
Sarah Michelle Wagar, New Media Communications

CRC faculty representative to the Blackboard Operations Committee – Richard Nafshun

Executive Committee Liaison – Mike Bailey

Action Items/Highlights

1. Advising and Consultation to LMS Review Process

The LMS review process was the major issue discussed throughout the academic year by the CRC. Lois Brooks and Lynn Greenough provided a thorough overview of the proposed LMS review process in the Fall of 2013, and solicited input and participation by the committee and its members. The CRC provided input on issues and concerns ranging from student and faculty usage to cost, features, and

security. This process was discussed extensively at the Winter and Spring CRC meetings, as well by stakeholders and the CRC. At the Spring meeting of the CRC, the committee agreed that its members had been well-informed about the process and that they had been able to provide constructive input to the LMS committee throughout the process, and so a formal statement or recommendation was not necessary at this time. Among other issues that the CRC said were paramount considerations were those of migration of data, ease of instructor and student use, publicity, security, and the continuity of service. The CRC was informed, following the Spring meeting, that Canvas had been chosen to replace the existing Blackboard LMS system. CRC clearly has a critical role to play in LMS conversations as the new system is implemented, and we anticipate this will be a significant agenda item throughout the next academic year.

2. TRF (Technology Resource Fee) Program

David Barber provided ample information and solicited input into the review of the TRF program, and CRC committee members provided perspective and input. Barber ultimately informed the CRC that the TRF program is being reorganized to support a model that recognizes a broader set of University needs. CRC members were particularly interested in the ways that the TIF (Technology Innovation Fund) will help support innovative technology in the classroom, and in the issue of bringing clarity to the process of funding laboratories. This will be another topic of importance and future focus for the CRC as this develops further.

3. ITCC and Cloud Applications and Hosting

Jon Dorbolo volunteered to serve as representative to the ITCC committee for the CRC, and was involved in and reported on discussions with the ITCC regarding the use of Adobe software and the development of printing technologies on campus. This connected to CRC discussions regarding larger issues of software and hardware infrastructure issues that are of mutual concern to ITCC and CRC. Dorbolo also briefed the CRC on issues related the utilization of 365 Office, which has the potential to bring greater access to Office components for OSU students. Lois Brooks has indicated interest in having conversations with the CRC in the future about technology planning, which will be another issue to pursue in the 2014-2015 agenda.

Recommended Action Items for 2014-2015

1. LMS implementation oversight
2. TRF program development (David Barber)
3. Technology and infrastructure planning (Lois Brooks)
4. Photo Roster System (Jon Dorbolo)