

Faculty Senate

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Computing Resources Committee

Annual Report 2010-2011

The Computing Resources Committee serves as a liaison between the faculty and Information Services, as the faculty representative in reviewing and recommending policy related to information technology used by faculty in their many roles, and to assist in planning and advocacy for information technology tools which enhance faculty effectiveness in teaching, research, and service.

The committee met a minimum of once per month. The two primary issues were Blackboard Technical and Hardware Support and the use of the Clicker in the classroom.

- In line with the increase of student enrollment on campus, the course management system plays a significant role in assisting faculty and instructors to deliver course content and grades efficiently and effectively. The CRC members are in agreement that there is a need to address additional staffing in the TAC and Enterprise Computing in order to support software upgrades, training, and the ability to answer faculty questions. Lois Brooks, Vice Provost for Information Services, accepted the committee recommendation to fund these positions.
- Clickers were slated to be updated in FY 2012 due to hardware upgrades. Jon Dorbolo provided comparisons between different clickers that were being considered for OSU. The CRC members had multiple concerns regarding the cost of the buyback program for students and the way in which the buyback program would be implemented. In addition to the cost, members agreed that there is a need to inform students regarding the hardware upgrades; especially to those who currently own clickers.

Other topics discussed in the meeting:

- Jon Dorbolo gave a quick presentation on Plagiarism Detection (PD) from Blackboard. The functionality is currently integrated in Blackboard. Instructors have the option to turn on PD. A number of faculty on campus tested the PD and found it to be very useful. The committee members agreed that the PD can be used as a deterrent. The PD was originally created by Safe Assign and whenever a document is submitted, the application will perform up to four different checks: it will check the information submitted against the web, check it against other documents submitted (for that class), check it against the OSU database, and finally, check it against the Safe Assign database (nationwide).

Additionally, students can also voluntarily opt-in to submit his/her assignment as part of the Safe Assign national database. The committee is waiting for clearance from the Office of the Registrar before recommending the implementation of this functionality in Blackboard. Additionally, the Executive Committee should review this functionality and make a recommendation as to whether or not OSU should make this feature available for Blackboard.

- There was a student who made a request to access previous term materials in Blackboard. Generally, the CRC members supported the idea that a student might access grade information for all classes taken in the past; however, they had reservations with regard to providing past course documents (including quiz and midterm questions) to students. During FY 2012, the CRC will continue to discuss this topic.
- The CRC is currently part of a Google Task Force Review.