

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY (ITTP)
ANNUAL REPORT 2005-06**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Under Senate Bylaw 181, the University Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy (ITTP) is charged with representing the Senate in all matters of instruction and research policy involving the use of information technology and telecommunications and advising the President concerning the acquisition and use of information and telecommunications technology.

ITTP held two regular meetings and one teleconference during the 2005-06 academic year. Highlights of the committee's activities and accomplishments are noted in this report.

IT Fluency and Impact Minor Proposal

Vice-Chair David Messerschmitt is investigating the development of a proposal for a multicampus UC undergraduate minor, "Information Technology Fluency and Impact." This program would enable students to apply technology to their own major discipline. Moreover, establishment of this minor would serve well as a template for similar future cross-campus initiatives by creating the infrastructure necessary for other intercampus courses and degree programs. ITTP Members are searching for faculty from several campuses that might be interested in participating in the IT Fluency minor and to identify courses that already exist on campuses that might be incorporated into the program.

Consultation with the Administration

Kristine Hafner, Associate Vice President of Information Resources and Communications (IR&C), and David Walker, Director of Advanced Technologies (IR&C), serve as consultants to the ITTP committee. Additionally, David Greenstein, Associate Vice President and University Librarian, California Digital Library; Paula Murphy, Associate Director of UC Teaching, Learning and technology Center; and Jacqueline Craig, Director of Policy (IR&C) were invited to update ITTP on specific issues of interest to the committee. Members of the committee, in their roles as ITTP representatives, also engaged in regular consultation with their campus Chief Information Officers and other IT-related administrators. The committee greatly appreciates the on-going dialogue with administrative personnel.

The committee was kept informed of systemwide IT-related activities by the IR&C consultants, including regular updates on the following:

- Activities of the Information Technology Leadership Council (ITLC), which is composed of UC's chief information officers and other senior information technology leaders, to address common IT challenges for the UC campuses (<http://www.ucop.edu/irc/itlc/>). ITTP Chair Andrew Kahng participated in ITLC teleconferences and meetings.

- Implementation of a pilot project of the Identity Management Work Group to create “UC Trust,” an infrastructure for federated authentication from campuses and other UC sites to system applications (<http://www.ucop.edu/irc/itlc/uctrust/>).
- Participation of several UC campuses (Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, Merced, and Santa Barbara) in the Educational Partners Program of the Sakai Project, a collaborative project that is focusing on the development of open source interfaced instructional technology tools for use by higher education institutions (<http://www.sakaiproject.org>).
- Implementation of a Universitywide Information Technology Guidance Committee (ITGC) that serves not only as an advisory body, but also has the authority to make decisions and implement systemwide IT-related actions (<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/itgc/welcome.html>). ITTP Chair Andrew Kahng participated in teleconferences and meetings.
- Development of a systemwide Electronic Information Stewardship policy. Although currently in a preliminary, informal review stage, the policy will eventually be submitted to a formal review process. The guidelines are intended to support the policy by identifying electronic information management practices that should be implemented in all University environments.
- Development of systemwide Web Accessibility policies designed to ensure UC compliance with federal regulations supplementing the American’s with Disabilities Act and guaranteeing minimal standards of universal access to all programs supported by federal funding.

Universitywide Open Source Process

The committee continued its exploration of the potential for UC to create an open source infrastructure to facilitate multicampus collaborative application development efforts. Using an open source process to develop technological applications could help maximize commonality and the sharing of resources while also allowing for campuses to customize applications to meet their own unique needs. For example, all campuses must deal with academic advancement, but currently there are ten different software applications to aid in this process. Open source software would create a baseline of technology that each campus could then customize to meet its particular needs. Writ large, open sourcing would prevent “reinventing the wheel” by each campus for common software needs. This exploration is being taken jointly with the ITLC and UC IR&C Associate Vice President Kristine Hafner.

Reports and Recommendations

ITTP transmitted responses and recommendations to the Academic Council on the following:

- Proposed Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry Principles, Review of the Universitywide Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAP)

Representation on Other Systemwide Bodies

The ITTP Chair, Andrew Kahng, serves as a faculty representative to the Information Technology Leadership Council (ITLC) and as an ex-officio member of the University Committee on Library (UCOL).

Acknowledgments

ITTP is grateful for the invaluable contributions made by its consultants from the Office of Information Resources and Communications: Associate Vice President Kristine Hafner and Director David Walker. Moreover, ITTP thanks guests Paula Murphy, Daniel Greenstein, and Jacqueline Craig.

Respectfully submitted:

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