UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING
AND COMMUNICATIONS POLICY (UCCC)
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Computing and Communications (UCCC) is charged by Senate Bylaw 155 to represent the Senate in all matters of instruction and research policy involving the use of information and communications technology and advising the President concerning the acquisition and use of information and communications technology. UCCC held two regular meetings and one teleconference during the 2007-2008 academic year. Highlights of the committee's actions are outlined below.

Amendment to Senate Bylaw 181

Previously, the committee was known as the University Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy (ITTP). However, because members felt that the terms "information technology" and, especially, "telecommunications" were dated and connoted limited realms of responsibility, the committee proposed to amend its name and charge. After systemwide review, the proposed amendment was approved by the Academic Assembly at its January 30, 2008, meeting. Consequently, the committee became the University Committee on Computing and Communications (UCCC); the substance of the committee's charge is unchanged.

Remote and Online Instruction

Chair Naugle and Vice Chair Beatty worked with Senate colleagues Bruce Schumm and Keith Williams, chairs of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) and the University Committee on Education Policy (UCEP) respectively, to explore the University's emerging needs regarding an anticipated increase in use of remote and online instruction. Recognizing that to address the subject comprehensively a dedicated team of investigators was needed, the group proposed the formation of a special committee within the Academic Senate to explore and make recommendations on the many important issues surrounding this new medium of instruction, such as the quality and type of faculty/student interaction, academic standards, residency, and technological requirements. The request was approved by the Academic Council at its July meeting, and UCCC will continue to monitor the special committee's work.

Consultation with the Administration

Kristine Hafner, Associate Vice President for Information Resources and Communications (IR&C), and David Walker, Director of Advanced Technologies in IR&C, serve as consultants to UCCC. Members of the committee, in the roles as UCCC representatives, also consulted regularly with their campus chief information officers and other IT-related administrators.

Again this year, both the committee and their consultants devoted considerable time and energy to analyzing the work of the Information Technology Guidance Committee (ITGC). ITGC was established by Provost Hume on an ad hoc basis and charged to

develop a systemwide IT strategic plan. Specifically, it had 18 months (ending in August 2007), to investigate where UC should be going in IT, what more UC can do as a system, and how the campuses can coordinate better on IT matters. It also addressed financial aspects of IT as well as organizational issues. ITGC had six working groups: 1) Advanced Networking Services, 2) Stewardship of Digital Assets, 3) Common IT Architecture, 4) High Performance Research Computing, 5) Instructional Technology, and 6) IT and the Student Experience. UCCC's role regarding this group was to provide unofficial responses to ITGC on matters of clear interest.

UCCC presented informal feedback to ITGC through its consultants and via Chair Naugle. After monitoring the work of ITGC and reviewing both its interim and final reports, UCCC submitted its formal response to the Academic Council, wherein the committee made both editorial and substantive suggestions and criticisms. Of particular concern to the committee were the absence of a detailed financial model and a codified method and mechanism for sharing best practices across the campuses. Issues of scope were also discussed carefully by the committee, who weighed both the pros and cons of the ITGC recommendations against the standards of a high-level conceptual document and the necessity of a workable plan with specific end-users' needs in mind. The Senate's full comments are available online here.

It was for those end-users, then, that the committee finalized its list of minimum IT guidelines for teaching and learning that it felt all instructors at UC should have, a project which originated under the 2006-07 committee. This document balances the need for specificity at the level of desktop computing needs and support with the inherent and rapid evolution of the field.

The administration also kept the committee abreast of efforts to align UC with other institutions in the realm of electronic accessibility and the Office of the President's IR&C unit's restructuring. While the former is an on-going effort the committee will continue to monitor, the latter has largely been completed. As part of an overall restructuring of the Office of the President to remove redundancies and improve cost-effectiveness, various IT-related support staff were consolidated into a single unit based on models prevalent at many campuses. UCCC will monitor subsequent steps in the IR&C restructuring, such as the development of a centralized data warehouse.

Reports and Recommendations
UCCC communicated with the Academic Council on the following:
- ITGC Report, "Creating a UC Cyberinfrastructure"
- Recommendation on Guidelines for Minimum IT Standards for Instructional Technology
- Announcing/Advertising Campus Visits by OP Personnel/Systemwide Senate Consultants

Representation
The UCCC Chair, Lisa Naugle, served as a faculty representative to the Information Technology Leadership Council (ITLC) and the Information Technology Guidance

Committee (ITGC); the chair also serves as an *ex officio* member of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications (UCOLASC). Additionally, Chair Naugle served as a Senate representative to two systemwide search committees: (1) University Librarian for Systemwide Library Planning and Executive Director California Digital Library (UL-CDL) and (2) Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Associate Vice President, Information Resources and Communications.

Acknowledgements
UCCC is grateful for the contributions made by its Office of the President's Information Resources and Communications (IR&C) consultants, Associate Vice President Kristine Hafner and Director of Advanced Technologies David Walker. UCCC would also like to extend its warmest wishes to AVP Hafner on her retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

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