

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ON
COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010**

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 web videoconference during the 2009-2010 academic year. Highlights of the committee's actions are outlined below.

Email

UCCC discussed the email systems used by students and faculty. Students at several campuses have transitioned to Gmail. The savings to the campus are minimal but the benefits to the students are valuable. After graduation, students will be able to retain their Gmail account if they want -- which is important to the alumni office. UCSC is in the early stage of implementing Gmail and 3,500 students have opted in so far. Students have not been forced to transition to Gmail and about 100 per week are transitioning to it. The student Gmail system does not have advertising. Google will eventually delete emails that have previously been deleted by the user. Faculty and staff will not switch to Gmail is related to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and the fact that Google's servers may be based outside the United States. For research involving human subjects or that is governed by ITAR, a more secure system is required. Allowing access by outside individuals as a result of subpoenas is also an issue. A small ITLC task force will be looking at email systems and UCCC will want to monitor the outcome of their discussions.

Consultation with the Administration

David Ernst, Associate Vice President for Information Resources and Communications (IR&C), served as a consultant to UCCC. The committee received updates about the Shared Research Computing Services pilot project. The oversight board has been established and a number of faculty are members. The clusters have been installed at the UCSD supercomputing center and at UCB instead of NERSC. A primary goal is to determine what services are attractive to researchers so the need for them to have clusters of CPUs in their offices and labs is eliminated and to reduce the cost for heating and cooling. The project will be open to more principal investigators in the future and UCCC is hopeful that Humanities faculty will be included. UCCC also received reports on the decision support network which is led by the Institutional Research unit and a Middleware pilot.

Textbook Affordability

UCCC discussed textbook affordability and electronic textbooks. The use of open source textbooks should be considered and UCCC could promote this strategy. There needs to be a change with respect to how publishing in open source journals is recognized for promotion. UCCC may propose a meeting with the Academic Personnel and Library and Scholarly Communications committees.

Computer Labs

Computer labs provide students with access to specialized software and, in the context of the arts, the labs provide access to costly peripherals. It is difficult to get the funding for the peripherals, and the specialized needs across disciplines vary. The challenge at one campus is finding the staff to install and support the software. UCCC may want to consider the changes that will occur in the labs in the future. The plan at one campus is to discontinue purchasing computers since students will bring their own laptops and will instead focus on providing specialized hardware and software. Centralized secure hosting of data is the primary focus at a medical campus in response to HIPPA compliance.

Systemwide Committee on Privacy and Security

A volunteer from the committee was appointed to a new joint Administration-Senate committee on privacy and security, which will examine information and electronic communications policies in the context of contemporary best practices and technologies.

Additional Business

UCCC devoted part of each regular meeting to reports on issues facing local committees. Discussions included UC's budget and computing space.

Representation

The UCCC Chair, Anthony Joseph, served as a faculty representative to the Information Technology Leadership Council and as an *ex officio* member of the University Committee on Library and Scholarly 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 David Ernst.

Respectfully submitted,

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