

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY (ITTP)
ANNUAL REPORT 2003-04**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Under Senate Bylaw 155, 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 three regular meetings and two teleconferences during the 2003-04 academic year. Highlights of the committee's activities and accomplishments are noted in this report.

Sharing Campus Practices

Members reported on the structure and activities of their divisional committees. The committee concluded that there is great value in sharing campus practices and experiences. ITTP intends to explore the ways in which the committee can increase the awareness and propagation of best practices. It is vital that ITTP have a full membership (representatives from each of the campuses and student representatives) so that the committee can be informed of the activities and perspectives of all the campuses and effectively propagate best practices across the system.

Committee Projects

The committee identified several key IT-related topics to explore in-depth. Several members volunteered to research these topics and present reports to the committee for discussion and recommendations.

IT Funding Allocations

The committee is currently conducting a historical assessment of the variances in IT resources funding across campuses. With the assistance of our consultants from the Office of Information Resources & Communications, data has been gathered from a variety of sources in order to evaluate the IT budgets for each campus. ITTP's intention for gathering and analyzing this information is to create a model that will allow a better understanding and comparison of the IT budgets for the campuses.

Status: ITTP's analysis of campus IT funding allocations will continue during the 2004-05 academic year.

Instructional Technology

There is currently no systemwide committee or office that specifically focuses on instructional technology. The ITTP committee is currently creating a central source of information about the different instructional technology projects and initiatives on each campus.

Status: Information continues to be gathered on campus projects, support and other resources (e.g., a designated statewide funding stream) for instructional technology. The committee plans

this fall to invite a representative from UC's Information Technology Learning Center to discuss systemwide projects and resources. ITTP is also considering making recommendations for central coordination and faculty inclusion in instructional technology efforts since the Academic Senate has authority and supervisory responsibility over courses and curricula.

Open Source

A report outlining UC policies current being applied to open source issues was presented at the March 12th meeting of the committee. Issues from both the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) and faculty viewpoints were compared, and problems with federal export control regulations and contracts and grants, as related to open source, were also identified. There seems to be a lack of uniformity in the way policies regarding open source are applied on the different campuses.

Status: ITTP outlined three recommendations for possible action regarding the open source licensing issues and plans to invite a representative from the systemwide Office of Technology Transfer to discuss these recommendations in the fall:

1. Request the new UC leadership to formalize in an official policy the spirit and principles outlined in President Richard Atkinson's January 30, 2002 letter on computer code distribution, which is provided in OTT Operating Guidance Memo No. 02-02 (<http://patron.ucop.edu/ottmemos/docs/ott02-02.html>).
2. Ask that the OTTs be reminded of the principles outlined in President Atkinson's letter.
3. Encourage the University to not impede allowing open source language in contracts and grants when the granting agencies indicate that they are willing to accept open source deliverables.

SPAM

Campuses and departments are employing a variety of methods to reduce spam and defend against the problems that spam causes to servers. Approaches to spam reduction often involve several principles: user sovereignty, user flexibility, minimal disruption, and multi-layer defense. UC's responses to spam are constrained by the diverse email client software, greatly varying sophistication of users, and academic freedom. This combination of factors makes it unlikely that a single, consistent approach to spam reduction will be adopted across the UC system in the near future.

Status: ITTP will continue to monitor the issue of spam and the methods employed for dealing with this problem.

Student Technology Fees

As budget cuts to higher education are increasing nationally, the number of colleges and universities charging student IT fees are on the rise. A technology fee, however, does not currently exist as one of UC's approved categories of systemwide student fees. Demands by students for increased access to new technologies (e.g., wireless access) have prompted some UC campuses and departments to seek out ways in which they can charge these technology fees. The ITTP committee determined that there are currently three different processes through which a student IT fee can be approved at UC:

1. The UC system can institute a student IT fee by obtaining approval from the Regents for a new systemwide fee.
2. A campus can institute a student IT fee by obtaining formal approval from the students for a campuswide fee.
3. A college, school or department can institute a student IT fee by obtaining approval from the Chancellor for a “course materials fee” for which there is a formal application and approval process. This is the venue now followed by one UC campus for a course fee to support IT in a majority of undergraduate courses.

Status: UC campuses should consider a course fee comparable to IT fees already being charged by other academic institutions to better provide for the rising IT support expectations from students and faculty.

Wireless Policy

Almost all of the UC campuses are implementing some form of wireless, but these efforts are primarily occurring on an ad hoc basis. The committee, in discussion with our consultants and invited guests, began outlining the various issues that need to be considered by a campus before implementing wireless (e.g., ensuring future upgradeability, balancing access management and security).

Status: The 2004-05 ITTP committee will consider developing a white paper outlining a vision and guidelines for the future of UC wireless.

Consultation with the Administration

Kristine Hafner, Associate Vice President of Information Resources and Communications, and David Wasley, Assistant to the Associate Vice President for Information Infrastructure Planning, serve as consultants to the ITTP 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. This interaction with the administration has been invaluable to the committee by providing a conduit of timely information and resources.

The committee was regularly updated on systemwide activities by the ITTP Chair and consultants from the Office of Information Resources and Communications. The committee is very satisfied with the work of IR&C and continues to be briefed on the following items:

- Plans for the University to transition from a paper-based to an electronic effort reporting system for federal awards.
- Actions taken by the UC campuses to deal with illegal file-sharing of copyrighted materials.
- Efforts of the Information Technology Infrastructure Task Force to develop a resource framework to project a model of the University’s long-term infrastructure investment needs for IT.
- Activities of the Information Technology Leadership Council, an organization 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/>).

- Implementation of a pilot project of the Identity Management Work Group to create an infrastructure for federated authentication of UC employees and students for the use of systemwide applications and services (<http://www.ucop.edu/irc/itlc/ucfedauth/>).
- Participation of several UC campuses (Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles and Merced) 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>).
- Strategic sourcing activities occurring at the University in an effort to produce savings through the establishment of systemwide vendor contract agreements for software and hardware (<http://www.ucop.edu/irc/agree.html>). Committee members provided the IR&C consultants with suggestions to increase faculty awareness and use of systemwide vendor agreements – develop a website that: (1) has an easy to remember address (e.g., software.ucop.edu), (2) gives faculty a simple process to purchase the software/hardware under the vendor agreements, and (3) allows feedback on the types of additional agreements that are needed.

Invited Guests

ITTP invited several guests in addition to their regular consultants to inform the committee about IT-related issues. These special guests and their topics included:

Digital Libraries

Peter Brantley, Director of Technology of the California Digital Library (CDL), spoke to ITTP about the CDL and new digital service architectures. Information was provided on the evolution and future of digital libraries, the CDL's current services and technologies, and the development of future services and technologies.

Export Control Regulations

Barbara Yoder, Policy Development Administrator for the Research Administration Office, presented an overview and specific examples of federal export control regulations to the committee. Administrator Yoder answered the committee's questions on how these export controls affect IT-related areas of research and equipment, as well as how policies on open source apply to an exemption from licensing regulations allowed for "publicly available" technical data.

Wireless Implementation

Michael Kleeman, Research Associate for the Berkeley Roundtable on the International Economy (BRIE), joined ITTP for a discussion on wireless implementation issues and policy. The committee was informed of the various standards for wireless implementation, the evolution of this technology, and the pros and cons of the different wireless protocols. Examples were provided of various institutions that had implemented wide area coverage of wireless, the costs and plans for this implementation, and the problems they've experienced.

Formal Recommendations

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

- Academic Senate website posting policy for committee documents

ITTP Representation

The ITTP Chair 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).

Acknowledgment

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 Assistant to the Associate Vice President David Wasley.

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