

COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Annual Report, 2005-06

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Computing and Telecommunications (CCT) devoted a great deal of its time this year to tracking the Information Technology (IT) transformation project and ensuring that it went smoothly. We particularly focused on issues of interest to the faculty and students. These issues included:

- Providing faculty feedback to the IT organization on implementation issues. We often found it necessary to request additional details from Information Technology Services (ITS) to provide meaningful feedback. Topics included:
 - Purchasing and computing standards
 - Availability of computing support (help desk and request submission system)
 - Computer security issues
 - Software selection and standardization, including site licensing of software
 - Support for Web presence for departments, courses, and individual faculty
 - Instructional computing support
 - Wireless computing availability
 - Improving the online graduate application review system
- Provision of central services such as computing clusters, email, and virtual machines to allow flexible use by faculty.
- Ensuring that the new IT organization provided necessary services to all academic divisions, including those that might have “non-standard” needs.
- Providing guidance to ITS and the Committee on Planning and Budget on funding mechanisms and levels for ITS.
- Developing a mechanism by which ITS could get faculty input integrated into their planning process in a timely manner.
- Initiating planning for a study of a long-term plan for improving computer network connectivity both on-campus and to the off-campus Internet.

In addition to IT consolidation issues, CCT discussed several other topics during 2005-06.

CCT discussed the issue of “sunsetting” services that may be no longer necessary. This discussion was focused on the modem pool, but will be increasingly relevant in other areas as the need for some services declines due to obsolescence.

There were several ITS subcommittees formed to discuss specific IT issues such as security, customer service, and back-end servers. CCT will have a representative on each committee who can attend should there be a need for faculty feedback to those committees. CCT will continue to have a representative on the Information Technology Committee (ITC), and recommended (subsequently adopted) that both the Committee on Teaching and Committee on Research provide representatives to ITC as well (COT was already represented; COR was not).

We expect that IT consolidation will continue to be an issue for CCT in 2006-07, though we hope that the consolidation will be almost complete by the end of the academic year. As the consolidation project winds up, we expect that CCT will turn its focus to issues such as the tradeoff between security and academic freedom, better integration of computing technology into the teaching environment, and wider availability of computing support for all of the academic divisions.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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