COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Annual Report, 2004-05

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Computing and Telecommunications (CCT) devoted much of its time this year to tracking the Information Technology (IT) transformation project and ensuring that the project did not adversely affect the computing environment on campus. 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)
  - Software purchase and upgrade policies
  - Support for Web presence for departments, courses, and individual faculty
  - Instructional computing support
  - Wireless computing availability and security policies
  - Tension between central and distributed provision for services such as computing clusters and email servers
- Ensuring that the new IT organization provided necessary services to all academic divisions, including those that might have "non-standard" needs. This involved separating research needs from "vanilla" computing.
- Providing guidance to ITS and the Committee on Planning and Budget on funding mechanisms and levels for ITS.
- Guiding ITS in implementing a "single sign-on" authentication mechanism. This included discussion of externally visible names and email addresses; CCT stressed the importance of allowing faculty to choose their own email addresses.

In addition to IT consolidation issues, CCT discussed several other topics during 2004–05.

Software for web-based delivery of course materials was an area of discussion that we expect to continue investigating in 2005–06. UCSC currently uses WebCT, but several other UCs (and other universities around the country) are moving to Sakai; CCT debated whether to recommend that UCSC move to Sakai as well.

CCT also discussed the issue of computing security on campus and its interaction with academic freedom and the ability to conduct research. We recommended that UCSC form a committee to formulate computing security policy with faculty representation from CCT and other Senate committees (COR, CAF); this committee was created in Summer 2005. Computing security will remain an issue for CCT in 2005–06.

The issue of cheating and the use of software to detect cheating was also a topic of CCT discussion. We gathered information on the problem and possible solutions, but no resolution was reached on this topic. We expect to continue discussing the problem in 2005–06.

We expect that IT consolidation will continue to dominate CCT activity in 2005–06. We hope that as the consolidation is implemented; CCT can turn its attention 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,

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