

SLA Technology Committee

Minutes of the November 2, 2012 Meeting

Present: David Biven, representing Sumedha Gupta, Economics; William Blomquist, Dean; Julie Freeman, English; William Gronfein, Sociology; Iker Zulaica Hernandez, World Languages and Cultures; Dan Johnson, Geography; Mike Scott, Director of Technical Services; Beverly Teach, Manager, Classroom Technology Services, UITS; Thom Upton, Agenda Council representative. (Minutes recorded by Julie Freeman.)

1. Beverly Teach presented features of CA 008C. Mike Scott led a tour of the new basement facilities.
2. The committee elected a Chair: Dan Johnson.
3. Proposed change: Eliminate lab advisory subcommittee

The question was raised as to whether we need to continue the lab advisory subcommittee the way it is constituted. Previously, the school had ad-hoc subcommittees for each lab. Those were combined to become one SLA Lab Advisory subcommittee. Since SLA now has oversight for only three labs – Visual Language Lab, MLRC, Communications Technology – and they are not department-specific, the members agreed that the committee as a whole can address any lab-related issues instead of a subcommittee. Faculty Assembly will need to approve this change and the bylaws will need to reflect the change.

4. Proposed change: Reduce number of committee members

Currently the bylaws state that the Technology Committee will consist of seven voting members and two nonvoting members. The voting members include four faculty selected by Agenda Council, the chair of the Lab Advisory Subcommittee, an Agenda Council representative, and a student representative.

It was proposed that the committee be comprised of eight members, with six voting. (The two nonvoting members are the Director of Technical Services and a representative from the Dean's Office.) We will continue to have a representative from UITS to attend in a non-voting capacity. Thom Upton will draft the changes to the bylaws for the next meeting. Dan Johnson will invite a graduate student to serve on the committee.

5. Technology updates

Contracting out server maintenance to UITS

Mike Scott proposed a change in how Technical Services supports data needs for the School. We now run web services, servers, file storage, etc. in Bill Stuckey's area. The Dean's office is considering a move to centralized services. In that model, SLA would no longer house or maintain our own appliances. Intelligent Infrastructure run by UITS features virtual servers, which can be rented by the school. HelpNet would provide support.

Dean Blomquist said maintaining our own physical servers means we currently must comply with data security and must be responsible for access and privacy concerns; under the proposed plan, UITS would handle such issues. In addition, our servers are past their expected life cycle. Moreover, we have no one to replace Bill Stuckey when he is unavailable. If we proceed with this plan, he will have more time to address faculty and school needs. We are not suggesting phasing out the technical services positions. We either need to hire additional staff or find ways to free them up.

The committee agreed that the Intelligent Infrastructure model makes sense. The school is about to proceed a trial with Survey Research Center because they have many short-term projects, and that is valuable for a pilot to determine the level of quality and service; e.g., turn-around time. Mike Scott will let us know how the pilot works out after a few months.

6. Graduate student printing

The Agenda Council raised the issue of supporting graduate student printing within the school, which receives all of the technology fees from graduate students. (All students pay a technology fee. Liberal Arts undergrads get 600 free copies; graduate students do not.) The committee decided we would like to have an estimate for what it would cost the School to support graduate student printing before making a decision.

7. FCTC Updates – Thom Upton

We have received copies of the minutes from the two FCTC meetings this year. A major concern of the FCTC is concern that the university announced the IU Online Initiative without faculty input or knowledge of the plan. FCTC was unaware of it until the announcement.

Oncourse problems and e-text concerns were also discussed. Thom will keep us informed of issues confronting the FCTC.

8. Other issues: mobile technology purchase requests, such as iPads. Dean Blomquist said it is a personnel and support issue. The school will maintain only one device for each faculty member. The school does not have the resources to repair or replace additional devices. The faculty member must be responsible for damages and loss. Thom Upton prepared a form specifying including such disclaimers. The school has a laptop policy. If you are traveling with your laptop or working at home, the school will contribute \$500 for a replacement; the faculty member pays the rest (unless it is due for a life cycle replacement or the faculty member is willing to use a computer from surplus.) Thom suggests every faculty member sign such a form even when getting a laptop, as they are unaware of the policy.

On the agenda for the next meeting: revised by-laws, mobile technology purchases, and VOIP.