

SLA Technology Committee
February 20, 2009
Minutes

Attending: Jim Wolf, Jennifer Cochrane, Aye Nu Duerksen, Kimmaree Murday, Mike Scott, Wayne Husted, David Ford, David Bivin, Gina Sanchez Gibau, Robert Harris

Meeting held in the former JAGS bookstore space, which is being converted into student lounge space with computer terminals.

- Topic under discussion: proposed change to how Student Technology Fee is appropriated.

- Currently of the STF collected from School of Liberal Arts students, 60% goes to UITS and 40% comes to SLA.
- A copy of the UITS proposal was circulated, as well as the memo written in response to the proposal by Dean Blomquist.
- The total reallocation of revenue is approximately \$750,000.
- Jennifer Cochrane pointed out that our input was not solicited by UITS. David Ford replied that nevertheless we can, and should, respond. Mike Scott suggested that our response not focus on asking UITS to specify their plans for SLA, but on questioning the decision that UITS appropriate the funds and take control of the services we provide using the STF.
- David Ford stressed that we currently have the expertise in our school to address our pedagogical technology needs, and that the UITS proposal implies that they will be able to provide better services despite not having that same expertise and experience. UITS claims that our first priority should be providing students with the same software in all labs, for example, whereas we are aware that this approach does not make pedagogical sense.

- The committee drafted a resolution to send to the Faculty Assembly:

Resolved:

Whereas feedback from School of Liberal Arts faculty and students has been extremely positive with regard to the current organization and support of teaching and learning with technology as funded through the student technology fees, and

Whereas we are in total agreement with Dean Blomquist's very positive assessment of current operations as documented in his February 18th, 2009 memo to the Vice President and Associate Vice President for Information Technology, and

Whereas our current technology support staff are uniquely skilled and qualified to attend to the highly diverse needs of the School of Liberal Arts, and

Whereas we believe that the student technology fees are being appropriately spent to support student learning,

We resolve that the proposal for UITS to expropriate the remaining portion of the technology fees paid by our students is unnecessary and potentially detrimental to our academic mission. We disagree with the premise inherent in the UITS proposal that the current services provided by the School of Liberal Arts require improvement.

[The minutes reflect the version jointly edited by the committee via email immediately following the meeting].

- The committee unanimously approved a proposal to update the Social Sciences lab in CA436. The computers currently in the lab will be made available for the student lounge.

- Discussion of the cell phone issue was tabled for a later meeting, if needed.