

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY COMMITTEE
Annual Report to the Faculty
2001-2002 Academic Year

This was the first year of existence for the Information Technology Policy Committee (ITPC), which replaced the Computer Policy and Educational Media Policy Committees. This was also the first year following the IT Review at UWM, which recommended a very compact structure for campuswide IT committees. The Review led to the creation of the Council on Information Technology chaired by the Provost, which is to co-ordinate strategic planning at the highest level. The Review envisioned the ITPC as the policy committee for academic and research computing, while a parallel Information Management Technology Planning Committee was created to focus on administrative and student services technology. A fourth group was to focus on IT infrastructure; this job was given to the Unit Technology Representatives (UTRs). UWM's CIO, Joseph Douglas, is an ex-officio member of the ITPC and is the liaison between all four committees. In addition, the chair of the ITPC serves on the Council on IT, and the ITPC had a representative on the UTR group. Assoc. Provost Leslie Schulz served as an ex-officio member of the ITPC, providing a direct link to the Provost. One of the ITPC's challenges this year (and in the coming year) was (is) to integrate its place in the IT committee structure with its role as the sole Faculty/Staff Governance committee dealing with IT.

The ITPC met seven times during the 2001-2002 academic year. Issues considered and actions taken by the Committee over the year are summarized below. Minutes and other material regarding the committee and its actions can be seen at the ITPC website <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/itpc/>.

Committee representatives to other groups. In addition to those mentioned above, these included: the Advisory Committee on Educational Technology Fees, the Technology Round Table, the OASIS Steering Committee, and the Physical Environment Committee. Committee representatives kept the ITPC informed about their activities.

Provost John Wanat attended the third ITPC meeting to answer questions and engage in a discussion of IT issues. Some of the issues raised included the results of the IT Review of AY 2000-01, the functioning of the UTR group, a campuswide calendaring/email system, several distance education topics, and resources for IT. The record of that meeting can be found in the November 29, 2001 minutes.

Educational Presentations. The IT Review recommended that all committees devote a substantial amount of time to keeping members informed of current trends and new developments. UWM CIO/I&MT director Joseph Douglas gave several presentations during the year, as he had in past years with the CPC and EMPC. The topics included UW System Common Systems and Services (such as the Microsoft license, WiscNet, the LTC, among many), re-structuring the CIO office (including responses to the IT Review), and campus IT policy development. UW System CIO Ed Meachen also met informally with members of the ITPC and others in February 2002. Sue Weslow of legal affairs gave a presentation on Intellectual Property and Copyright issues at the May 2002 meeting.

OASIS. Bruce Maas reported on the status of the Peoplesoft implementation and the associated data warehouse. He said the project has been challenging, particularly since it crosses many organizational boundaries, but it is generally on schedule and on budget. He discussed preparations to go live with student registration in April 2002.

Online Course Evaluation. Student evaluations are required for UWM courses. There was discussion of how to implement these in remote learning/online situations. A motion was passed asking the UTRs to review the alternatives for online course assessment tools and report the findings to the ITPC. The discussion also touched on the question of whether to make results available online.

Mass E-mail Policies. Some concerns had been raised about mass e-mailings; for example, who should be able to request names and e-mail addresses (or pre-built reflectors) for the purpose of sending a mass mailing to groups within the UWM community. Policies at other Universities, which sometimes charge for mass mailings or require advance approval, were noted. The chair stated his opinion that more education is needed about various alternatives, but that there have been no serious abuses at this point and we should not rush to implement a policy. It should be noted that spam is a major annoyance to many, but it is not strongly linked to the above discussion. There was some discussion of spam filtering.

Charges for Printing (Pantherprint). I&MT was preparing to institute a policy of charging \$.08 for printing a sheet of paper (both sides, hence 2 pages) during Summer 2002 in the Library, in Campus Computer Labs, and in school/unit/department labs that agreed to take part. ITPC members generally found pay-for-print reasonable, though some wondered about the exact charge. Students were not as happy with the policy. Ultimately, a Pantherprint committee was formed with I&MT and student representatives (plus one administrative, one faculty, and one staff representative) to carry on discussions through the summer. This led to a modified \$20 for unlimited printing option for students, to go into effect in Fall 2003. This was, however, a one-year only solution.

The Modem Pool. The ITPC passed a motion recommending that the modem pool be upgraded from its current configuration to at least 56 Kbps equipment. I&MT has maintained that the actual performance increase of such an upgrade (from 28.8/33.6 Kbps) would be marginal. The upgrade would simplify access as well, as standard programs could be used instead of the UWM Slirp program. The consultants said that there would be cost savings from modern technology, but I&MT disagreed with these estimates.

IT Ombudsman. I&MT proposed a specific mechanism for an "IT Ombudsman" at UWM, tied in with faculty sabbatical. The committee discussed the funding issue, the time commitment for the individual, and other matters. One member noted that the key to an effective ombudsman office is the ear of an influential person, presumably the Provost. The committee made several suggestions.

Some issues to be considered in or carried over to the coming year include: (a) discussion of the IT hierarchy and codification of a means to evaluate IT policies in a timely manner; (b) further assessment of the IT Review changes; (c) OASIS assessment; (d) printing charges; (e)

online course assessment; (f) an IT ombudsman program; (g) links between the ITPC and department/unit/school IT committees; (h) e-Panther ID policy; (i) e-mail policies/filtering/programs and possibly a UWM portal; (j) The Software Business Association and UWM; (k) Selection of software for campus labs & other licensing.

Submitted: 09/30/02

Information Technology Policy Committee Members 2001-02 (*ex officio):

Jochen Albrecht	Geography
Denise Babin	Library
David Barlow	Criminal Justice
Allen Bell (chair)	Mathematical Sciences
*Joseph Douglas	CIO/Information & Media Technologies
Nancy Frank	Urban Planning
Seyed Hosseini	Electrical Engineering/Computer Science
Roger Hyttinen	Information & Media Technologies
Robert Jeske	Anthropology
Robert Kaleta	Learning Technology Center
Edward Mabry	Communications
Mary K. Madsen	Health Sciences
Andrew Martin	English
Raymond Mess	Student Representative
Peter Sands	English
*Leslie Schulz	Associate Vice Chancellor
William Washabaugh	Anthropology
Jon Welstead	Music