INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY COMMITTEE
Annual Report to the Faculty
2002-2003 Academic Year

This was the second year of existence of the Information Technology Policy Committee (ITPC) and of the three other high level IT committees at UWM. UWM's CIO, Joseph Douglas, was an ex-officio member of the ITPC and served as the liaison between all four committees. Assoc. Provost Leslie Schulz served as an ex-officio member of the ITPC, providing a direct link to the Provost. The ITPC chair, Allen Bell, was a member of the top-level committee, the Council on IT (CIT), which is chaired by the Provost.

The ITPC met ten times during the 2002-2003 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 committees mentioned above, the ITPC had faculty representatives on the Advisory Committee on Educational Technology Fees, the ad hoc PantherPrint Committee, and the Unit Technology Representative (UTR) group.

Provost John Wanat attended the second and third ITPC meetings to answer questions and engage in a discussion of IT issues. Some of the issues raised included (1) which services should be provided centrally and which locally, and what accountability mechanisms should be used for centrally provided services; (2) funding issues and the IT budget including faculty/staff desktop computer purchases and software licenses; (3) internet connections and bandwidth requirements for education and research; (4) computer security & crime issues; (5) the current status of the OASIS project and the 2001 campuswide IT Review; (6) course assessment issues, including the Pick-A-Prof system contracted for by the Student Association. The record of these meetings can be found in the October 4, 2002 and November 4, 2002 minutes.

Budget Discussions. The state's revenue shortfall led to many discussions on campus about budget issues, and the ITPC had its share of discussions on the IT budget. The second meeting with the Provost (November 4) began with an I&MT budget presentation by CIO Joe Douglas. The February 28 and March 21 meetings were devoted entirely to the discussion of budget matters, and Provost Wanat actively participated in the February 28 meeting. In the end, the budget cut targets were met mainly by reductions in individual unit plans, attrition in I&MT, and increased efficiencies in the use of IT on campus, such as tighter management of bandwidth usage in the dorms. The CIO's office carried out a comprehensive audit of IT resource usage on campus as part of the budget discussion. The results of this audit will be used in studying some of the issues noted above in the ITPC's discussion with the Provost, such as central/core services and computer acquisition.

Project Reports. Several meetings saw reports on ongoing and future IT projects from the CIO and I&MT. There was a great variety of such projects, including the UWM portal project, the ePantherID, calendaring & e-mail software, the replacement of Blackboard by Desire2Learn, and

some discussed below. Information about these projects was kept available online at the CIO website http://www.cio.uwm.edu/ .

OASIS. Bruce Maas reported on the progress of the OASIS/Peoplesoft implementation and the upgrade to version 8, which is completely web-based. The February 7 meeting included a long discussion about course prerequisites and OASIS. In most cases, strict enforcement of prerequisites is not enabled because of the rigidity of the system. Advisors are informed of this on a regular basis and the committee suggested that chairs/directors should be similarly informed. In turn, the OASIS group should be consulted before prerequisite checking is completely turned on for a unit.

Pantherprint.   This program was initiated this year in Campus Computer Labs (CCLs) and participating unit labs. Individuals were charged $.08 per piece of paper printed (2 pages normally). A card which allowed students to pay $20 for unlimited printing was available this year as an experiment, but it will not be available next year. Some reduction in printing seemed to occur (as expected), but it was believed that widespread sharing of the unlimited cards took place, defeating the cost-recovery goals of the program.

UTR & Core Services Proposals. The UTR group was involved in discussions on fundamental questions of core services & standards and local versus central services. These were discussed at the February 7, April 4, and May 2 meetings. At the February 7th meeting, a rubric for software support & standards developed by the UTRs was discsussed. It classifies software as base (installed on most machines), supplemental, or non-standard, describes levels of support for each, and lists specific software programs. It can be found at the UTR web site http://www.uwm.edu/IMT/UTR/ . At the April 4 meeting, preliminary proposals from the UTRs on core IT services were discussed; one of the first such core services was computer acquisition. It was suggested that hardware purchases be mainly centralized to take advantage of volume discounts; the College of Letters & Science was testing that approach during Spring 2003. ITPC members wondered about exceptions for those with special needs or grant funding. Discussion continued at the May 2 meeting and the committee unanimously passed the resolution: "The OIT and UTRs should form working groups to form definitions of core IT services for review by the ITPC, IMTP and the CIT".

ITPC Policies & Procedures. The committee discussed two possible changes in its procedures: the election of a chair for the coming academic year in the Spring and the establishment of a fixed meeting time. Allen Bell discussed these issues with the Secretary of the University and was told the committee could make such changes on its own. (She recommended re-affirming the rules each year.) The committee passed a resolution that the new ITPC consider these questions early in the 2003-04 academic year.

SARUP Laptop Program. On April 4, a detailed presentation was made on the Architecture department's laptop program by several faculty & staff. Students in that program are required to lease a laptop with a specific software configuration from I&MT at a rate of $525 each semester. A wide range of issues was discussed, from financial aid to wireless access to changes in teaching strategies. The program was co-ordinated among several units, including I&MT,

SARUP, the Bursar's office, and OASIS. Joe Douglas indicated that very few departments could justify such a laptop program, but a campuswide PDA/tablet computer program might be worth considering.

UWM Web Site. UWM's new webmaster, Michael Hostad, distributed a draft of a new mission statement for the UWM web sit at the May 2 meeting and asked for a member of the ITPC to serve on the Web Steering Committee. Audrey Begun agreed to do this for Summer 2003. Committee members asked about policies and resources for building lower-level pages, such as departmental web pages.

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) IT project assessment, including OASIS; (d) core services & central/local services; (e) ITPC policies and procedures; (f) a UWM web portal; (g) Selection of software for campus labs & other licensing.

Submitted: 08/25/03

Information Technology Policy Committee Members 2002-03 (*ex officio):

Bartholomew Armah	Africology
David Barlow	Criminal Justice
Audrey Begun	Social Welfare
Allen Bell (chair)	Mathematical Sciences
*Joseph Douglas	CIO/Information & Media Technologies
Nancy Frank	Urban Planning
Timothy Haas	Business Administration
Seyed Hosseini	Electrical Engineering/Computer Science
Roger Hyttinen	Information & Media Technologies
Robert Kaleta	Learning Technology Center
Peter Lee	Letters & Science - English As A Second Language
Edward Mabry	Communications
Andrew Martin	English
Peter Sands	English
Patrick Schroeder	Electrical Engineering/Computer Science
*Leslie Schulz	Associate Vice Chancellor
Jon Welstead	Music
Jesse Wielgat	Student Representative

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