FACULTY COUNCIL
November 1, 2006
SUB 275
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Amin, Ashley, Bailey, Bandyopadhyay, Becker, Catoira, Cherry, Christopher, Croy, Dyer, Gipp, Idzerda, Jones, Levy, Lynch, Jacobs, Lei, Livingston for Ryker, M. McClure, Neeley, Prawdzienski, Scott, Seymour, Taylor, Watson, D. Weaver, Yoo for Zhu

Members Absent: Ag Ed/AOT, Bennett, Chem/Bio Chem, Erickson, Johnson, Larkin, Nursing On Campus

Others Present: Fedock, Lansverk, Wolff, Rimpau, Dana Longcope

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. Minutes from October 18, 2006 were approved.

IT STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION – Professor Richard Wolff

- Richard Wolff is the Chair of the IT Strategic Plan subcommittee (The Committee) and as of October 27, 2006, they have a strategic plan draft. The IT infrastructure has been reorganized and Jim Rimpau is, presently, the Chief Information Office for Information Technology and a series of other related committees. To observe the structure of those committees, click on the link: http://www.montana.edu/aircj/coms/ and look under CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY.
- The charter of the strategic plan states that "The committee will develop a draft of a strategic plan that identifies what IT services should be provided on the MSU campus to achieve the institution's mission. 1. Identify which of the current base IT services will need to be maintained into the future. 2. Identify enhancements to current IT services that will be required to meet currently unmet needs. 3. Identify additions to IT services required to meet future needs. In each case, the committee should consider the priority of existing services, new additions and enhancements." The charter will address issues on a priority basis
- The structure of the document posts key recommendations in the beginning and proceeds to more specific recommendations, which apply to each key recommendation. Recommendations are formulated to meet MSU's five-year plan.
- In comparing MSU to other institutions, The Committee used the Carnegie approach and evaluated the top 95 universities. The Committee then sorted that data; namely a large undergrad population with an intensive grad program, and picked out a subset of the 95, specifically 13 universities, which were similar to MSU. Then, data was gathered with respect to how much money MSU uses for IT, how many people use IT in classrooms, how the classrooms are equipped, and a variety of other measures, and used the information to drive the recommendations.
- You may look at IT as a cost or an investment. The Committee views it as an investment. Another key premise is that IT skills are life skills and MSU should be equipped to teach them.
- The first recommendation is that MSU IT should be lead by an experienced Chief Information Officer. This position would report directly to the president.

- Professor Wolff stated that the IT Governance Council should be hands-on and holisitic. It should take a strong leadership role, be active, and have resources to take on activities.
- Discussions ensured:

Many departments have their own IT specialists working for them. What is their relationship to IT? We have a hybrid IT environment consisting of a centralized ITC and supplemental IT support. Our position is that we need to have it continue. It is typical of universities of our type and size and necessary for creativity and research. No one scenario fits everyone.

What about those departments that have neither? We recognize that issue and one of our recommendations is that the campus should invest in faculty and staff by making IT accessible to everyone. Not everyone needs the same support, and that is where the hybrid idea comes in. Also, in the SP, learning environments need to be more clearly stated, such as "computer labs," "classrooms," etc. Also, if wireless was ubiquitous, then you would not need to have labs, per se. and we are working towards that concept.

Did you do comparisons with other universities that are as under funded as MSU, rather than just using data from Carnegie? Yes. It is in the lengthy appendix 4.

How far off are we with respect to meeting faculty and student needs? For faculty, it depends on which faculty role you are referring to. If you are asking about instructional, we reference FTE. If it is research, we don't have a central data security/recovery system, we don't have coordinated computing systems on campus, and management identity is still in its infancy. IT changes almost every hour with respect to technology and security. The good news is that our institution has gone from a low level of research activity to a high level of research activity. If we increase our research square footage, perhaps IDC percentage return would increase and MSU would receive. We addressed that in Recommendation #5. The unstated comment is that research is being subsidized. Regarding students, Provost Dooley would like every course to have online IT component to it, and that is up for further discussion.

Who pays the cost in my department? There are legitimate costs in our research work that could be direct charges that are not. This is an area for exploration.

Have you looked at academic resources online in the library? We did not address making the library more virtual.

Would you make campus licenses accessible for students that have their own machines? Yes, we are looking at that, now. The details would be addressed by ATC.

I see a large investment to bring this kind of strategic plan to fruition. What do you envision as the process for making priority decisions? Where do we put the emphasis first?

We would look at where you get the largest return for money invested and where there are the most efficiencies to be gained.

I've heard some universities that require students to have a particular type of computer to alleviate compatibility problems and eliminate labs. Have you thought about that? Yes, we did. Over 85%of our students already have their own computers, so the real issue is how to have them use it more efficiently. They are charged for Rez-Net. I believe it should be free. Students cannot bring their computer to class because they cannot get connectivity, and I believe they should. I think the proliferation of uniform computer types and platforms is less of an issue with the new web posted services and platforms.

To find out where we may need to get funding for this endeavor, could we examine the cost per student, what percentage comes from ITC, state, user fees, etc.? If we do that, then we might know where to look for more funding.

What you make available to faculty for teaching and research will enhance MSU's ability to recruit and retain quality professors.

Have you addressed long term storage or electronic archiving? We recognize that as a need and one that has not been addressed yet.

Other issues brought up were problems with the portal system, our Microsoft license for Office but no one on campus knows how to help with software problems.

The last meeting IT Governance Council meeting is the week after Thanksgiving. They plan to develop another draft, have an IT Governance Council workshop to digest all input, so faculty are encouraged to please direct comments/questions to Richard Wolff, rwolff@montana.edu

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM, as there was no other business.

Signature
Shannon Taylor, Chair

Signature
Gale R. Gough, Secretary