Council for Instructional Technology

Wednesday, February 06, 2013

1:00 – 2:00 pm, HH 60

Minutes

Members present: Chandra Amaravadi, Richard Cangro, Virginia Diehl, Sharon Stevens, Anna Valeva, Mei Wen, and Cynthia Struthers

Guest: Stephen Frazier, U Tech

CIT Administration:

No formal business was conducted due to the lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting

Discussion with Mr. Frazier:

Software licenses and related discussion

Discussion began with questions about the consolidating of licenses to increase awareness of an access to existing software on campus. Response referenced the amount of software used on campus indicating that the volume of software would be difficult to determine and keep track of. One way to manage this would simply be to have faculty contact U Tech first and ask what is available prior to ordering. A larger concern is the politics of management of software given that each department has a separate software budget. The advantage to having both a better idea of use and need across campus is the ability to leverage discounts. A disadvantage however is separating and determining normal use from power users.

Discussion of hardware on campus. U Tech is only aware of hardware connected to server(s). Like software issue on a campus this size it is not clear what all is out there.

Frazier discussed the movement toward I-T Governance that is taking place. I-T Governance is the centralization of technology needs and budget on campus. The goal is better alignment across campus and the implementation of a decision making process that includes setting priorities. I-T Governance drives the strategic technology planning for campus.

Server-based models

An ultimate goal would be to move away from depending on labs so that students have access to computing wherever they are. Labs are expensive and requiring refresh cycles. Goal is desk-top virtualization (a current problem is with licensure). U Tech plans to have two labs moved to virtualization.

Software availability

Frazier discussed that U Tech is moving to Sys-Aid a system that identifies what is out there. There was some discuss of the CITR needs assessment as current method for identifying software needs. Some question of CITR and U Tech relationship. Some discussion of at home rights/student rights to particular software for course use. Problems with software updates and U Tech need for unified level of support and level of support provided.

Lab issues

Question re: notification of lab image requirements and policies. Frazier is not aware of any existing policies but will look into this. Could a U Tech person be responsible for lab images? Questions were raised about faculty access to labs during breaks so that they are aware and ready for classes to begin. The problem of the expiration of licensure and changes to programs that require U Tech assistance was discussed. Can expirations be renegotiated so that these do not occur during the semester?

Wireless connections across campus and use of I-Pads and other technology

Frequency of password changes

It is possible to implement a system where the frequency of password change is based on length (number of characters) of password. Shorter passwords need to be changed more frequently (current system). Twelve or more character passwords do not need to be changed as frequently. To implement a system that can accommodate 6 to 8 and longer passwords requires more programming than is available at this time.

Meeting concluded with Frazier thanking CIT for invite to the meeting. He has met with over 130 people since arriving on campus, he is taking copious notes, and creating mind maps to reorganize and consolidate what he is hearing. So far he has identified 22 objectives for U Tech but by far the two most pressing technology issues are “ownership” and communication. He has a report due to President Thomas in the next couple of weeks and is planning to provide technology forums across campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia B. Struthers