

Strategic Planning
Financial Structure and Operations
September 8, 2015 3:00 p.m. RPL 325

Members Present: Sandy Cheffer, Pat Chronister, Shirley Goines, Linda Johnson, Stephen Jones, Brian Lasey, Jim Musser, Donna Rankin, Niki Schwartz

Guests: Carol Adkison, Steve Milligan, Ken Wester

- I. Minutes reviewed and approved
- II. Ken Wester of the Office of Information Systems and two of his staff (Adkison & Milligan) discussed the operations and role of the OIS at Tech.
 - discussed general functions of each area
 - strategy: look for trends in educational technology
 - strategy: observe technological problems on campus to advise tactics and changes
 - strategy: identify mobile trends affecting all areas of campus computing
 - strategy suggestion: Tech needs to adopt a strategy that allows us to upgrade and adapt as computing requirements lead us (platforms with adjustment options) without locking us into inflexible five-year agreements
 - strategy suggestion: instead of buying everything every five years, Tech should purchase a portion of required technology each year to spread out the expense and allow for better and consistent budgeting of computing expenses
- III. Major Concerns:
 - The OIS is not always in “the conversation.” Technology decisions have often or usually been made and requirements set before the OIS is consulted for advice. The situation is improving.
 - After the discussions are over and the decisions are made, independent and unilateral changes are made by contractors, designers, etc. without consulting OIS to meet other needs that arise. These cause technological conflicts which might have been avoided if, once again, OIS were consulted during the process. This is the biggest problem in new construction.
 - There are not enough staff to address individual departmental needs or to engage new initiatives.
 - It is difficult to hire and keep qualified people because of state caps on classified salaries for OIS positions. We have only recently begun to use unclassified positions which better approximate market salaries to fill OIS openings.
 - Top Priorities: (1) enough personnel; (2) career paths for personnel; and (3) dedicated budgets to maintain levels of service as expected.

Adjourned @ 4:45 p.m.

Next meeting: September 15, 2015, 3:00 p.m. RPL 300 N;
Subject: Buildings (Brian Lasey)