

Infrastructure Council Annual Report

2011/2012

Chair: Mark D. Tillman, Vice-Chair: Naomi Young

Infrastructure Council Mission Statement: To establish policies and procedures for academic infrastructure and support in cooperation with the President of the University and the Faculty Senate. This includes coordinating the work of operation committees that contribute to the physical framework of the campus community. Our goal is to achieve standards of excellence for the interdependent network of facilities and services essential to a top-tier public research university.

Responsibilities of the Infrastructure Council: This council's area encompasses the University's infrastructure supporting the University's academic mission, including the provision of physical facilities and other physical resources; libraries; information technology; the campus master plan; and the availability of adequate computer, classroom, laboratory and other resources.

Members

Thomas Caswell	University Libraries
Gail Hansen de Chapman	Environmental Horticulture
Bill Millard	Pharmacy
Mario Poceski	Religion
Ata Sarajedini	Astronomy
Ruth Steiner	Urban & Regional Planning
Jay Watkins	School of Music
Manuel Arreola	Radiology
Elias Eldayrie	CIO
Shannon Holiday	Orthodontics
Andrew McCullough	Provost's Office
Mark Tillman	Health and Human Performance
Carol Walker	Facilities Planning and Construction
Naomi Young	University Libraries

Work continued from previous years

Council members intensively reviewed proposed FERPA training as a group and provided a detailed critique.

Techniques for quantifying faculty effort via a tool used in Health and Human Performance were discussed.

Key issues for 2011/2012

The space allocation needs of the College of Fine Arts, and the resulting proposals to close the Architecture and Fine Arts and Music Libraries, was a significant focus of the Council's activities. Although the Music Library was ultimately slated to be closed and its collections relocated because of University budget cuts, strong faculty input helped to preserve the AFA Library.

The Council reviewed the process for technology grants and other uses of the technology fee. The possibility of allocating the technology fee according to a model more closely conforming to RCM was discussed, but no conclusion was reached. The Council and IT also discussed the feasibility of using Google apps, while keeping in mind the limitations imposed by student privacy requirements.

Through its relationship with the University Libraries Committee, the Council was involved in studying open access publishing, and concurred in the decision to ask the Senate to vote on acceptance of the Berlin Declaration.

At the final meeting of the year, the Council had a lively discussion regarding live streaming and web recording of classroom lectures and other material. All agreed that a variety of legal and policy issues have yet to be addressed regarding the appropriate use of these technologies. Of particular concern is the protection of students who have FERPA privacy holds. The technology has the potential both to help (through enhanced participation) or hinder (through lack of captioning, text descriptions, or other accessibility features) students with disabilities from full participation in the learning process.

To be continued in 2012/2013

The intellectual property and privacy issues regarding recording of classroom lectures must be resolved, preferably in conjunction with the Academic Policy Council and/or the Research and Scholarship Council, IT and the University Counsel's office.

The experience of university departments participating in the online tenure and promotion process should be reviewed.

The effect of recent budget cuts on infrastructure should be reviewed. The closing of library branches and the relocation of their collections, the reduction of facilities maintenance services, and a significant reduction in PECO funds are all examples of budget-related issues that come under the Council's purview. Along these lines, Scott Nygren has suggested that the Passive House Institute be discussed (<http://www.passivehouse.us/passiveHouse/PHIUSHome.html>). The Institute provides standards regarding efficient new construction with impressive decreases in energy costs. These energy savings could help to fund future construction projects. We have been advised to contact Chris Silver of Design, Construction, and Planning for additional information regarding zero footprint building designs.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Tillman, Chair; Naomi Young, Vice-Chair