

Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee (FITAC)

FITAC Annual Report February 22, 2015

Jim Porto, Chair, Cheryl Bolick, Suzanne Cadwell, Gregory Copenhaver, Brad Hemminger, Amanda Henley, Michael Hoefges, Cal Lee, Ryan Madanick, David Thissen
From ITS: Chris Kielt, Michael Barker, and Susan Kellogg

The charge of the FITAC is the following.

The committee considers, and relays, information technology concerns of faculty and others to the chancellor, to the Faculty Council and to the University community. The committee's functions include the following:

1. consider issues that affect the use of information technology in teaching and learning, research, and other professional activities within the University; and
2. advise University officers and offices of administration on faculty needs and interests relating to information technology.

New members added to the Committee since last year are the following: Cheryl Bolick, Amanda Henley, Michael Hoefges, and Cal Lee.

The committee has met several times since the last report. Over the past year information sessions were held on Microsoft 365, Sakai issues, ConnectCarolina, IT Governance, and security issues.

The major effort over the past year, however, has been the Envisioning Conference held on November 21, 2015, sponsored by ITS and FITAC. Participants identified key directions for IT at UNC through a series of structured exercises culminating in investment of hypothetical funds into the most appealing ideas. Each participant had 5,000 hypothetical dollars to invest. The dollars associated with each idea below are the hypothetical amounts participants were willing to invest.

- Fund and create an immersive learning environment, \$195,000;
- Retrofit learning spaces to support active and virtual learning environments, \$145,000;
- Develop large-scale collaborations with commercial global leaders in technology, \$140,000;
- Preserve digital assets through campus-wide awareness and shared resources, \$125,000; and
- Support and reward evidence-based creative teaching, \$125,000

A link to the description of the conference may be found at <http://its.unc.edu/carolina-event-launches-dialogue-on-future-of-learning/> . Attached is a brief article about the conference published in the University Gazette. The agenda for the conference is below.

FITAC & ITS
Envisioning
The Digital University

Agenda

November 21, 2014

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 – 8:40 a.m.	Welcome address from Jim Porto, Chair of the Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee (FITAC)
8:40 – 9:20 a.m.	Gary Marchionini - <i>“IT in Higher Education: Disruption or Transition?”</i>
9:20 – 9:30 a.m.	Break
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Envisioning Group Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and overview • Long-term brainstorm exercise • Near-term planning exercise • Idea nomination for investment activity <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reference the back of your badge for your assigned room and facilitator.</i></p>
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Break
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Investing and lunch begin
12:30 p.m.	Investing period closes
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	Daniel Russell Presentation
1:15 – 1:30 p.m.	Investment results and closing remarks by <i>Chris Kiehl</i> , Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

FITAC is now working with ITS to refine the list and to develop a continuing ability to collect ideas from the University community on information technology.

In February of 2015, Tim Ives, Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee approached the FITAC requesting that the committee help identify a platform to improve faculty and staff communications.

Anne Whisnant briefed the Chairs of FITAC and FWC on an open source program that she had seen at CUNY called the Academic Commons. The program is built on Word Press/Buddy Press as a social sharing site. The site has been repackaged as “Commons in a Box” and is freely available to anyone.

Kate Hash from ITS has been evaluating Commons in a Box and has reported that for minimal cost UNC faculty governance can have an operational site in weeks. ITS (as of February 2015) is working on a mockup of the site. On 5 February FITAC reviewed and approved the plans to conduct a pilot of the Carolina Commons site starting in April 2015 after faculty elections.

For the future, FITAC will continue to collect ideas about directions of IT from faculty; will evaluate the Carolina Commons project and will start the discussion on Learning Management Systems as a possible replacement for Sakai.

Submitted

Jim Porto, Chair Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee
23 February, 2015