

Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee (FITAC)

Annual Report, March 2021

Membership:

Daniel Anderson (Chair), Gregory Copenhaver, Vimal Derebail, Spencer Dorn, Joaquin Drut, Amanda Henley, Cal Lee, Alicia Rivero, Austin Snyder, Lisa Villamil

From ITS: Michael Barker and Suzanne Cadwell

New members added since last year: Vimal Derebail, Spencer Dorn, and Alicia Rivero

FITAC membership and function:

(a) The Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee is appointed by the chair of the faculty. It consists of (i) faculty members, and (ii) one or more students serving one-year renewable terms. Faculty members constitute a majority of the members of the committee.

(b) The committee represents to the chancellor and the University community the concerns of faculty and others with regard to information technology. The committee's functions include:

- considering issues pertaining to the use of information technology in teaching and learning, research, and other professional activities in the University; and
- advising University officers and offices of administration on faculty needs and interests relating to information technology.

2020-21 Discussion Topics:

The committee met seven times since the last annual report. We focused on consulting with leaders of technology-related campus initiatives and advising Information Technology Services (ITS). Topics of discussion included:

- The status of syllabi in terms of faculty intellectual property and the potential for broader access to historical syllabi for students; we consulted with the Educational Policy Committee and confirmed our understanding of syllabi and educational materials as faculty intellectual property; we noted support for efforts to provide students with more access to information about courses, including the class information features implemented in Connect Carolina for the fall 2020 and spring 2021 terms. We also opposed broad efforts to make all syllabi publicly available.
- Issues associated with remote faculty work; FITAC consulted with the University Archivist to consider concerns related to the archiving of recordings of remote work-related activities; we discussed responsibilities and timeframes for archiving of materials and confirmed that faculty are not obligated to archive these materials unless directed by University Counsel.
- Access issues for faculty and students. We considered challenges with internet access and noted the need for concerted, state-level efforts; we communicated to the Chancellor and Provost our support for these efforts and encouraged a commitment to furthering access.

- Management of video materials; FITAC consulted with ITS about sustainability efforts associated with large storage requirements associated with video artifacts from remote work.
- Work-Related Data: we considered data generated by online platforms and faculty work. We noted concerns associated with the potential use of data and metadata to measure productivity; we confirmed that any of these uses is currently limited to metadata applied to technical systems administration. We noted our opposition to the development of any machine-driven metrics that might use this metadata to assess faculty productivity. We noted that ITS leadership is also not in favor of any such machine-driven productivity metrics; we consulted with the University Chief Privacy Officer, confirming that work-related data on university platforms is analogous to e-mail in terms of being subject to public records requests, legal access, etc.; we committed to working with ITS and its Data Governance Oversight Group to develop policies related to faculty work-related data.
- Advising ITS Leadership; FITAC consulted with ITS on a range of initiatives and activities, sharing faculty insights to better inform ITS decisions.