

QCC COMMITTEE on COMPUTER RESOURCES

An Academic Senate Standing Committee

Minutes

Meeting of October 8, 2010

Chair: Joel Kuszai
Secretary: Amy Traver

Members in attendance: John Buoncora; Nidhi Gadura; Joel Kuszai; Jo Pantaleo; Vazgen Shekoyan; Amy Traver

Introductions were made. Absence of student representatives noted. Joel wondered about the number of student representatives to the committee, and the members discussed ways to encourage student involvement.

Joel invited comments on goals for the committee. He referenced a desire to reinvigorate and increase the visibility of the comm., and the need to represent faculty on the tech fee committee. He stated that we need to know what other campus groups are doing so as to avoid committee duplication.

Amy wondered if it would be possible to get a sense of technology allocated to each department (both in classrooms and on lend from the department), as well as the labs in each department. Nidhi mentioned that technology in each department is tagged and inventoried – apparently there is a census of material technology done for each department.

Members wondered if, with campus orientation to increased online education, we could get a sense of students' remote access and the technology available to faculty in each department. Getting a sense of what departments are spearheading the online education movement on campus might be constructive for the committee.

Vazgen addressed concerns over the extent to which faculty have control over their computers. Acknowledging virus concerns, he wondered if it would be possible to give faculty members administrator status.

Members wondered if our responsibility was to represent faculty concerns over instruction or office technology.

Amy mentioned problems getting the necessary hardware and internet access to new faculty. Nidhi wondered if the process (foresight, planning, awareness) of new faculty tech needs and use was visible to those in charge. Joel wondered if the cycle of computer replacements for faculty could be made equally visible. Committee members expressed concerns about faculty computers being “swapped out” during the summer while the faculty are not in their offices. Incidents where old materials were not downloaded to the new machines were noted.

In discussing classroom technology, members noted the need for locks on the door – and the high cost of installation of these locks and the high cost of maintaining classroom technology. Members noted that most classrooms do not need expensive podia; just projectors, hard drives, and internet access.

Amy expressed a desire to find out the results of the Tech Planning Comm survey administered to fac/staff last year. She promised to reach out to Phil Peccorino for results, as she wondered if they could inform the committee's charge.

Joel wondered if the committee should pursue a newsletter, where we could publish articles on trainings, software, computer maximizing, offerings on CUNY mall, etc. He also wondered if we could harness student insight in this effort. Amy and Jo discussed potential service learning projects in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Traver
Secretary