

QCC COMMITTEE on COMPUTER RESOURCES

An Academic Senate Standing Committee

Minutes

Meeting of December 8, 2010 at 1:30 pm

Members in attendance: John Buoncora, Nidhi Gadura, Isac Hernandez (student representative), Joel Kuszai (Chair), Jo Pantaleo, George Sherman, Arnab Tarafder (student representative), Amy Traver (Secretary)

The meeting began at 1:30pm with Amy reporting on her review of the faculty/staff tech survey, and reports of individual faculty on the potential ways in which the committee could respond to these findings. Arnab wondered why students' impressions of technology availability/use were not similarly surveyed.

One proposed solution to the faculty's concerns regarding the number of tech-friendly classrooms on campus was for the committee to create a list of resources (podia rooms; carts in each building; labs; etc) that faculty could harness in their efforts to teach with technology. This could best be understood as an effort to "connect the dots" for faculty who may not know where to get the computer/technology resources they need/want.

George stated that faculty's access to classroom technology was an unfolding process that should be handled at the department level. Several committee members wondered if this was really the appropriate level for solutions to these inadequacies.

Joel mentioned that a newsletter, containing tips on how to access and use classroom technology, might be one way to distribute the aforementioned resource lists. He described it as a reporting mechanism with an educative function: it could have a list of connected rooms; write-ups on relevant people; describe tech fee projects (funding for projects); etc. Joel also stated that he would be willing to handle the layout of the newsletter if committee members would share the work of crafting articles/content. George mentioned that a newsletter would also be a good space in which to advertise upcoming events, like the security awareness class run by IT.

Another issue discussed was faculty members' concern about the number of emails students receive. George stated that the VP of Student Affairs was recently able to control student "spam" by creating a digest of posts. Arnab wondered why students couldn't receive their QCC email at personal email addresses. George explained that students could forward their QCC email to their personal accounts, but that most students don't know how to do so and that his staff was too over-extended to instruct all students in how to do so. Jo wondered if students could learn about email forwarding in their ST-100 class.

Amy referenced that the survey revealed that faculty wanted more training on technology/software. George wondered if a consolidated calendar of ACC & IT trainings would be helpful to faculty.

Joel then spoke about the website re-design. He discussed the format of the website, how the update process would unfold, and faculty site "ownership." Arnab described the re-design as "crowded." Joel wondered if another job for our committee might be to prepare people for the website transition, i.e., to get them thinking about what they want on their site and to get some of the web changes done before transfer. The committee then discussed various components of a potential web re-design, including interactive web 2.0 technologies. Concern about faculty copyright issues on the web/websites was also discussed.

George then reported on the CUNY First transition. He encouraged all committee members to direct questions/problems to LB-24 from 8am-10pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Traver
Secretary
Committee on Computer Resources