

MU Information Technology (IT) Committee

End-of-Year Summary Report – May 2013

This report serves as a summary of MU IT Committee activities for 2012 - 2013. The charge to this standing committee is to advise the Chancellor, Provost and Faculty Council on issues involving computer and information technology through oversight of those entities responsible for computer and IT services on the MU campus. A list of committee members can be found at <http://committees.missouri.edu/mu-information-technology/members.php>.

The committee met monthly from September through May; no meeting was held in December. At the September meeting, committee members and guests introduced themselves and provided some background information. In response to a recommendation contained in the Summary Report for 2011 – 2012, members were given an orientation at the first meeting to assist them in making informed decisions throughout the year. This included:

- 1) Updated Information Technology Fee (ITF) Fact Sheet that:
 - a. Provided background on the ITF, usage guidelines and funding categories; and
 - b. Outlined responsibilities of the IT Committee, the Technology Evaluation Subcommittee and the Division of IT.
- 2) Overview of the ITF budget and budget process.
- 3) Description of the Interdisciplinary Innovations Fund (IIF) and committee responsibilities.
 - a. The IIF provides seed money for student-centered, interdisciplinary projects that demonstrate MU's leadership in using information technology to develop innovative approaches to teaching, research and service.
 - b. Maximum amount for each award is \$25,000.
 - c. For information about the IIF, go to <http://committees.missouri.edu/mu-information-technology/call-for-proposals.php>

Approvals

- **Interdisciplinary Innovation Fund:** We received 10 proposals and listened to presentations on each. The committee voted to fund four proposals totaling \$97,448 (<http://committees.missouri.edu/mu-information-technology/call-for-proposals.php>). Funding for MedZou EMR, one of the seven projects approved in the previous year (2011-12), was released. Final reports were received for three of the four projects approved this year and the holdover from the previous year. An extension to May 2014 was requested and approved for the remaining 2012-13 project. A request to include a research component in a Digital Video/Writing in Nursing project approved in the 2010-11 cycle and use the remaining funds (c. \$2,000) in the Spring 2014 semester was made and approved.
- **Course Redesign:** The committee voted to take \$320,000 out of ITF reserves to use to fund seven projects in the course redesign program.
- **E-Learning Library Liaison:** The committee voted to approve a request for funding an E-Learning Library Liaison at \$75,000 per year to be modeled after the three-year Academic Technology Liaison pilot. Funding for this year will come out of IIF money not awarded.
- **Budget:** The committee approved a budget to put forward to the Provost.
- **Academic Support Center:** After voting last year to approve one-time funding to renovate eight large classrooms at a cost of \$24,000 per room, the committee voted to provide an additional \$40,000 (\$5,000 per room) for the installation of HD cameras to be installed during the room renovations.

- **Print Smart:** The committee approved Division of IT to make budget neutral changes to Print Smart.
- **Respondus Quiz Generation Tool and LockDown Browser:** Committee approved moving the expense for the renewal of both the Respondus Annual license (\$2,945) and the Respondus LockDown Browser license (\$5,395) from ET@MO to ITF. This recurring cost can be funded from one-time or from surplus.
- **Voice Thread:** Committee voted to replace Wimba Voice Tools with VoiceThread as recommended by the Technology Evaluation Subcommittee, a budget-neutral switch, with the option to purchase a three-year license for a discounted price.

Other Activities:

- Gary Allen provided monthly updates.
- Beth Chancellor and Brandon Hough from Division of IT gave an overview on Information Security and Access Management.
- Committee members were informed about a campus-wide survey to assess current and projected future needs of faculty and selected staff and urged to complete it. Results will be used by the Cyber-infrastructure Council, assembled in January 2013 by Gary Allen, to build budget and strategic plans for cyberinfrastructure going forward.
- Last year, a Microsoft Student Option was implemented with approval from the MU IT Committee and Missouri Student Association (MSA). The committee considered the return on investment and emphasized the need for an exit strategy in case there were not enough students to replace the initial investment. After clarification with Microsoft and MU bookstore agreeing to market the option, the committee approved the initial investment of \$431,640.90 from ITF surplus. After Microsoft announced Office 2013 options for students (\$79.99 for four years), all sales through bookstore dried up. The unwind license will be based upon a "true-up" each year to determine how many students are still enrolled who bought from the bookstore. Approximately \$238,000 will be returned to ITF after three years of unwind are paid for.

Recommendations

- Continue providing background information on the ITF, the IIF and the budget at the first meeting to assist with helping committee members make informed decisions throughout the year.
- There were occasions when not enough committee members were present to vote on action items. Due to the large number of members, it was difficult to find a time that suited everyone's schedule. Subsequent electronic voting was successful; however, the committee should consider using of Skype or other video conferencing tools so that members can still participate when they cannot physically attend a meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
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