Office of Information Technology
Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting
October 24, 2011

Attendees: Bruce Blumberg, Robin Bush, John Clarke, Bill Cohen, Stephen Franklin, Alan Goldin, Carol Hughes, Antoinette LaFarge, Dave Leinen, Jim Meeker, Dwayne Pack, Hugh Roberts, Dana Roode, Allen Schiano, Albert Yee, Jessica Yu, Nyma Cain-Admin Support

CORCL IT Update (Dana Roode)

CORCL has been briefed on current projects and issues in OIT. Topics included:

Academic Units and IT Consolidation. School IT staff will remain organizationally in schools but will participate in shared IT service planning and implementation. Jason Valdry (Arts) will serve as IT Director Chair, Dwayne Pack (Humanities) will serve as Vice Chair, and Bill Cohen (ICS) will serve as applications development liaison. Implementation has just begun.

Administrative Application Projects update: The Kuali Financial System suite has been chosen to replace UCI's current financial systems with a target implementation date of July 2013. UC Payroll/HR system replacement with Peoplesoft is tentatively scheduled for implementation at UCI in July 2014. UCI Student Information Systems need to be replaced as well, that project is in the very early planning stages to identify a replacement strategy. UCI Time Reporting System is currently in production. Academic Personnel Review and Kuali Coeus continue to make progress.

eTech@UCI (Steve Franklin)

An Educational Technology Fee to begin in Winter Quarter 2012 as part of the Educational Technology Initiative (http://eTech.uci.edu/). The proposal and guidelines were presented, along with the draft of a survey to be given to students. The annual revenue collected by the eTech@UCI fee is expected to be just under $3 million. A portion of these funds will be used to support EEE, computing lab, classroom and other educational technology services. Equipment refresh, staff and support of technology services and new initiatives will also be supported by the fee. Budget constraints may have an impact on how the funds are used. Students will have a direct voice through those students appointed to the eTech Advisory Committee.

CIO Roode will ensure that revenue from the eTech fee will not be used outside of the scope of the eTech guidelines.

Issue of blocking Wi-Fi in classrooms: many faculty would like to be able to disable wireless network access during selected class sessions. This capability is something OIT has looked into in the past without being able to identify an acceptable solution.

Calendar Replacement (John Clarke, Dwayne Pack)

Oracle Calendar has reached the end of its' life cycle and needs to be replaced. A Calendaring Taskforce, co-chaired by Andrew Laurence and John Clarke, was formed to identify a replacement. The primary focus was on Microsoft Exchange and Google Apps for Education. The recommendation given by the task force is Microsoft Exchange, with free hosting "in the cloud" by Microsoft. Points considered were: existing shared calendars (80% of campus uses Exchange), product functionality, advice from other institutions, and smooth transition of data.

Cost controls: Under terms of a contract currently being negotiated between UC and Microsoft, Exchange online would be free for faculty and staff and the most current version would always be in use. Migrating data from Oracle Calendar to Exchange can be accomplished by a third-party software package at a cost of approximately $20 per user.

No final decision has been made in regards to which calendaring system will be used, nor has a timeline been implemented.

Network Upgrade Needs (Jessica Yu, OIT)

Upgrades in UCI's network are needed to meet research and other data needs. Currently, the network serves 175 buildings. Most new buildings are connected to the network core at 1 gigabyte/second, but buildings built before 2004 have only 100 megabytes/second connections and need to be upgraded to avoid bottlenecks.

OIT estimates that $4.6 million is needed to increase capacity and network speeds. Currently, the data center has only 2 gigabytes/second connectivity to the core. This should be 10 gigabyte/second. In addition, a network equipment refresh is needed. 450 of 1600 campus network switches are out of vendor support and core routers are nearly 10 years old. These typically need to be refreshed every 5-7 years. Wireless network, campus fiber and cabling infrastructure all need to be upgraded as well.

Research Computing Planning (Allen Schiano)

UC wide VCR/CIO Research Computing Summit will be November 7 at UCLA. UCI Faculty will attend the summit representing a variety of computing needs.

Google Apps for Education (Steve Franklin)

UCI-branded Google Apps for Education is currently available for all students, faculty, and staff under terms of a contract between UC and Google. Contract negotiations are currently under way between UC and Microsoft to make Office 365 available to UC campuses.