

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 27, 2013

[In these minutes: OIT overview and services feedback; Online pre-matriculation course discussion.]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Joyce Holl (co-chair), Brandee Polson (co-chair), Thomas Bilder, Peter Haeg, Katie Roehl, Meghan Sable, Carlos Torelli, Kendre Turonie, Amelious Whyte

OTHERS: Gabriele Schmiegel

GUESTS: Bernard Gulachek, Associate VP of OIT; Brad Cohen, Associate CIO of OIT; Susan Strubel, Associate CIO of OIT

REGRETS: Lisa Erwin

ABSENT: Lauren Beach, Marcus Guith, Sam Ketchum, Michael Vargas, Michael Stebleton

WELCOME

Ms. Holl and Ms. Polson, co-chairs, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

IT GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

Mr. Gulachek distributed handouts of PowerPoint slides that outlined the IT governance input process. He began by explaining the slides to give the members context for the following discussion:

- University of Minnesota IT
 - The FY12 expenditures: \$192M
Mr. Gulachek explained that it is important for IT to guide these investments by gathering a broad spectrum of feedback. Technology exists to support the University's mission in teaching and learning, research, and all other components.
- University of Minnesota IT
 - IT leaders have a "dotted line" accountability to the VP and CIO of OIT in addition to their accountability within collegiate and administrative units.
- Office of Information Technology Expenditure Distribution: \$74M
- Office of Information Technology Expenditures by Service
 - A further breakdown of services funded by the \$74M
- IT Governance at UMN

- Chart of restructured governance model
- The governance model is a year and a half into implementation and is constantly evolving.
- The chart depicts the gathering of input, discerning common needs from input, and using this information to make informed decisions. After decisions are made, the entire IT community must carry out the implementation of these decisions in an aligned way. The University should be able to see the result of the investments made on an annual basis. This system was designed to be aligned with institutional processes like budgets, investments, or de-investments but it is not always linear.

Mr. Cohen facilitated the following discussion. He explained that OIT is intending to gather and synthesize feedback across the University to reshape IT investments. He then asked the committee what they see as priorities for students. The conversation will be fully public to ensure that when decisions are made regarding investments, the process is transparent and priorities are shaped by needs expressed by the University community. Members were asked for their IT concerns and feedback:

- Increase presentation technology support in breakout rooms in CSOM, and investment in breakout room technology in general
- A more effective and systematic way to support student-to-employer discovery
- Technology liaison or contact for those departments that do not have an IT professional
- A minimum standard of wireless Internet capacity to ensure basic access. Members discussed ways for students to give feedback regarding locations where they have trouble connecting to the Internet.
- Professional development opportunities for faculty to integrate technology into courses. Mr. Cohen explained that the Provost's Office and OIT are collaborating, as part of the University's eLearning initiative, to provide services to support faculty in their development of eLearning instructional components. Undergraduate education is a focus of the initiative along with identifying graduate professional programs as areas of opportunity. There are also light investments being made to cultivate an appetite for exploration in emerging technologies like MOOC's.
- Support for faculty using Moodle and other online course material platforms
- Improved communication in technology decisions
- Help Desk support to ensure individuals are equipped to effectively resolve issues
- Improved usability of portals: A single portal for student needs that integrates CSOM, MyU, etc.
- More accurate search function results.

Mr. Cohen asked members if there are any areas containing excessive amounts of technology that are not necessary.

- ITV could be supplemented with a less expensive teleconferencing system

- Digital information kiosks are rarely used due to the prevalence of personal devices
- Computer labs could be scaled down, as a majority of students own multiple devices.

Mr. Cohen commented on the changing relationship that students have with communal spaces such as computer labs. He posed the question: What are students' attitudes currently regarding these spaces and what spaces should be created to support student learning and growth? In summary, Mr. Gulachek reminded members that a survey would be sent soon regarding IT services. They will create mechanisms to share the information OIT has gathered across the University.

ONLINE PREMATRICATION COURSE

Mr. Whyte updated the committee regarding the proposal process for an online pre-matriculation course that educates students on alcohol consumption, sexual assault, and financial literacy. Students and faculty from a variety of areas evaluated the potential courses and provided feedback. A course has been chosen but the announcement cannot be made yet. Mr. Whyte discussed implementation options:

- The goal is to have incoming freshman take the courses this summer. It will be considered a soft launch in July and officially open in September. There will not be pressure on departments to ensure students have completed the course this first cycle, as it will be used as a pilot process. The rate of completion will be evaluated to determine the process for the next year.
- There will be cultural challenges when dispersing this to international students. It will be important to communicate the culture surrounding alcohol in the United States.
- The tool can be made available to all UMN students without a change in cost to the University.
- A member noted that in some countries, the course content might be censored.
- There are currently no incentives offered for students to complete the courses. It will be an implied requirement but not mandatory.
- Mr. Whyte is hopeful that data surrounding the course completion results and the behavior of incoming students will be available in the fall.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Holl and Ms. Polson adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich
University Senate Office