The Academic Computing Committee met 7 times during the 2016-17 academic year, to discuss academic technology issues and faculty concerns with IT staff. Part of each of our meetings was devoted to discussions with the Chief Information Officer (Jim Dillemuth) and the supervisor of academic technology and support (Robb Carothers); the rest of the time was devoted to ACC business. At the first meeting of the year, we discussed group goals, current issues and concerns, and elected the chair of the committee.

The most current issue of concern is the lack of leadership in IT. The CIO is on indefinite medical leave, and the ACC has been told that there are no plans at this point to search for a replacement. The IT organization is currently in flux, and current staff are taking on supervisory roles to fill in the gap, through an internal interim supervisor position of the IT infrastructure unit. This position takes on the supervisory duties as well as keeping some current duties. An ITS1 (frontline) position is also currently on hold by administration due to budget cutbacks.

Below are highlights of the discussions and outcomes from the ACC meetings in the past year, some of which have already been reported at previous Senate meetings.

- Discussed the possibility of surveying faculty for needs and concerns regarding academic computing
- Identified the need for an updated University Technology Plan, which is currently defunct
- Discussed IT request to remove desktop computers from campus classrooms
  - The ACC requested feedback from Senate and relayed this information to the CIO
  - As reported in April Senate, IT has backed off this request, due to faculty concerns that there is not adequate laptop coverage for graduate and teaching assistants
- Multiple discussions on the creation of an Information Technology Services Advisory Committee (ITSAC), which was brought to ACC and to campus bargaining units by the CIO.
  - IT recognized the need to create a campus-wide plan that incorporates input stakeholders, as well as the need for both transparency and a formal feedback mechanism for IT processes
  - The ACC advocated that the first product of the ITSAC should be the creation of a new campus technology plan, as the current plan is defunct.
  - The ACC brought a recommendation to December Senate, which was approved
  - Per Robb Carothers, the ITSAC is on indefinite hold, until a new CIO is found
- Discussed software approval policy and impacts on faculty use of free software for teaching
  - IT has a form and FAQs for this:
• Discussed campus-wide service contract for office printers/copiers/scanners
  o CIO was investigating possible cost savings of moving to a new vendor (Marco) for office printing/copying, and provided cost estimates to ACC
  o Per IT, campus will not be moving to a new vendor in the immediate future
• Discussed IT data retention practices with CIO
  o Per CIO, IT manages computer access data; Public Safety handles camera and electronic keycard data
  o Per CIO, IT doesn’t “watch” people’s computer activity, other than keeping network access logs
  o These are kept for 90 days on BSU servers, then deleted
  o IT only pulls log data if there is a legal order to do so (e.g., subpoena from federal government, etc.)
  o ACC expressed concern that outside entities might access or otherwise hack into this data, and that a shorter time period for data retention should be considered
• Discussed proposed IT Resource Request process for major items (e.g., new computer labs)
  o This was an informational item from IT, they are currently developing a process that intends to be fair and transparent, in order to help plan and priorities major IT projects requested by campus units
  o Requests would be evaluated and approved/disapproved by area Dean
• IT noted availability of campus subscription to Qualtrics survey tool, accessible through MyBSU
  o http://www.bemidjistate.edu/offices/its/education-technology/tools-and-services/

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McDonnell