Minutes

Senate Information Systems and Technology Committee

January 22, 1998

3:00 p.m.

Room 718 General Classroom

Present: Evelyn Babey, Reid Christenberry, Missy Cody, Tim Crimmins, Bill Kinyon, Fred Massey, John Neel, Bill Nelson, Scott Owen, Detmar Straub, Shirley Tastad

Absent: Larry Kelley, Robin Morris, Greg Streib, Patrick Wiseman

Minutes

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Funding Priorities and Action Items

Bill Nelson reported the budget subcommittee met and requested that Reid regroup the priorities to fewer categories, which proved to be difficult. Reid reviewed the revisions with the Provost. The Provost reported FACP will not accept requests that are five percent over a unit's budget. IS&T's requests must be condensed, ranked and total not to exceed $393,310. In order to assist in this, the committee proceeded to review the following distributed materials:

- New Funding Plan/all units (4 requests)
- New Funding Plan/Institutional Infrastructure (5 requests)
- New Funding Plan/Support on behalf of Institutional Administrative & Library Functions (5 requests)
- Summary of Mandatory Contingency Items (2 requests)

Keeping in mind that all contractual obligations and the salary for the Director of University Computing and Communications Services (UCCS) must be met first, the committee proceeded to prioritize the remaining priorities to fit the amount of funds available. The committee discussed, reviewed, advised, and recommend the following for approval:

A-1, Continued funding for Director, UCCS
B-1, Stable operating environment/contractual obligations
Next year, the committee will begin its budget process and action plan review earlier. A calendar will be prepared with days indicated for items to be considered. Again, it was emphasized that all items must relate to the strategic plan.

**TLTS Recommendations:**

The committee discussed and somewhat revised TLTS’ original recommendations as follows:

1. Require computer access. (APACE)
2. “Access” is defined as E-mail, web and word processing (APACE)
3. Degree programs/departments can establish minimum requirements, including ownership
4. GSU will seek arrangements to offer students computers for purchase or lease
5. Infrastructure to allow plug-in locations on campus
6. Computer needs for courses listed in schedule bulletin (available vs. required) (APACE)

Additional resources will be required to fulfill many of these recommendations. On the other hand, some costs to students will be lower as materials required would be on a web site. As a caution, some departments may not like recommendation number one, if they feel it is imposed upon them. If computers are required, financial aid can be made available for students. Regarding recommendation number four, Reid said the university would have to assume less fiscal liability if students could contract directly with the company through an established process.

The committee discussed TLTS’ recommendations and believe they are legitimate for Georgia State University students and would like for these recommendations to be forwarded to the appropriate people for further consideration. Bill Nelson will discuss with Tim Crimmons what the appropriate way for these recommendations to be forwarded and/or implemented might be.

**Web-based Courseware**

IS&T recently purchased WebCT licenses. Funding for some additional licenses has been proposed from Distance Learning funds. The Senate Committee endorsed WebCT and it was adopted as the current standard for web-base course delivery. Reid explained that definition of standards in the Web-based course tool arena is, at best, only at a formative stage. However, it is better to standardize on a simple solution now that will be available to all faculty. The study performed last summer indicated that WebCT also scales to a large number of users without having a serious fiscal consequence for the university. The IS&T training group was asked to schedule courses to assist faculty in the use of WebCT.
Other Business

Reid outlined recent IS&T organizational changes. He reported that Mary Jane Casto plans to include IS&T's organizational chart on a web site so changes will be available immediately.

He reported Syllabus Press will be on campus in April. Bea Yorker and Carla Relaford are the contact persons on campus. IS&T will provide some of the rooms and computers for the meeting. Syllabus will provide instructors.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.