Senate Information Systems and Technology Committee  
March 20, 2003  
1:30 P.M.  
718 General Classroom

Present: Pamela Barr, David Barrett, Douglas Barthlow, Dan Benardot, Murray Brown, Laura Burtle, Mary Jane Casto, Reid Christenberry, Martin Fraser, Guantao Chen, Zhongshan Li, Thomas Netzel, Scott Owen, Cherise Peters, Susan Walcott

Minutes: The February 20th minutes were approved as distributed.

Security and Surveillance Camera Systems Connection Policy:
This draft policy was distributed to committee members in the February meeting for review. UCCS is installing cameras in the Village and Lofts and other on-campus entities are installing security cameras as cost effective devices to monitor and protect human and physical resources on campus. This policy indicates the Georgia State network infrastructure may serve as a distribution means for security and surveillance camera systems and associated recording devices used primarily for obtaining identifiable personal images. It is written to ensure the network is not compromised when an IP-addressable camera or digital video recorder is connected to the network. It was suggested: 1) the title be changed to Network Protection Policy/Standard, 2) mention of “IP addressable” is included in the first paragraph titled POLICY, 3) The “should” in items 1 and 2 of the Procedures section be changed to “must.” The policy was approved with the changes discussed. The policy will be forwarded to the Administrative Council for review and approval.

Report on Membership of CIO Search Committee:
Marty reported the co-chairs are Sid Harris, dean of RCB, and himself. Those faculty members that agreed to serve on the committee are Dan Benardot (CHHS), Laura Burtle (Lib.), Bill Nelson (CAS), Richard Welke (RCB), and Patrick Wiseman (CL). Sid Harris and Marty have met once and have scheduled a meeting with Ron Henry on March 27, after which they will call the committee together.

Report on SpamStamper:
The SpamStamper was activated on Monday, March 17. On Tuesday, 46 per cent of mail received was spam, and as of March 20, 59 per cent of mail received was spam. Scott Owen mentioned several e-mail systems have a delete and bounce feature, and Mary Jane said she believed SpamStamper also has this. However, in the community survey about how to handle spam, people did not like the idea of spam being automatically deleted. One advantage of SpamStamper is that it is free.

Student On-Line Course Evaluation Proposal:
This item was not on the agenda, but the Ad Hoc Committee of Chairs asked Marty to distribute the proposal to the committee for comment. With the explanation that faculty are concerned about the low response rate of online evaluations, and that it is hoped this proposal will encourage larger numbers of responses, discussion ensued. Scott Owen pointed out that several years ago when student paper evaluations were first proposed, it was stated that evaluations would not be used for promotion and tenure (P&T) of faculty, but would offer students a way to express their opinions of the curriculum and staff. Cherise feels students may hesitate to use on-line evaluations as they fear the faculty will have immediate access to this information and will lower students’ grades if the evaluation is not favorable. Faculty feels students will use their grades as leverage when submitting their evaluations, if they feel their grades are lower than they anticipated. Students don’t trust paper evaluations either, as they feel faculty recognizes handwriting, and will grade accordingly. Murray Brown feels the evaluation instrument may be questionable as it has not been updated in several
years. He also feels it would be better if the student government would revise, publish and collect the evaluations. Scott Owen suggested the evaluations be submitted before final exams. The committee recommended amending the last paragraph of the proposal to read: “This proposal will make all student evaluations be submitted prior to finals.” With this amendment, the motion to approve the proposal passed.

**EDUCAUSE:**
Thomas Netzel discussed EDUCAUSE and its value to the Georgia State University community. The mission of the EDUCAUSE organization is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. The Senate ISAT Committee deals with operational issues, but Scott Owens suggested creating a visionary advisory subcommittee that will look at technology’s long-term impact on the university, be an advisory group to the CIO, and one that will help educate the campus on newer technology. He feels the Senate is not aware of and needs educating on newer technology; perhaps through a visionary white paper developed by the subcommittee. He asked if there could be a budget set aside for EDUCAUSE speakers to come and talk with the members of the Senate. Mary Jane Casto mentioned the IT Strategic plan is refreshed every two to three years, and a subcommittee of this type would be helpful when that time comes around. This plan is generally refreshed when Georgia State University revises its strategic plan. She also suggested the possibility of committee members attending EDUCAUSE regional meetings, which are listed on the EDUCAUSE web pages.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. Next meeting is April 10, 1:30 p.m., in 718 GC.