INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY (ISAT)
COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2004
1:30 – 3:00 PM
718 GENERAL CLASSROOM BUILDING

In Attendance:

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<td>J. L. Albert</td>
<td>David Cheshier</td>
<td>Bill Fritz</td>
<td>Tom Netzel</td>
<td>Larry Pankey</td>
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<td>Amy Bruni</td>
<td>Marty Fraser</td>
<td>Doug Goans</td>
<td>Karen Oates</td>
<td>Bill Paraska</td>
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<td>Mary Jane Casto</td>
<td>Teryl Frey</td>
<td>James Jones</td>
<td>Yi Pan</td>
<td>Cherise Peters</td>
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First order of business: Call for nominations for committee chair. Yi Pan nominated the incumbent, Marty Fraser. 1 nominations received. Nomination seconded and unanimously approved to appoint Marty chair.

Marty asked that everyone introduce themselves to get acquainted with the new members.

Second order of business: Minutes approved as distributed.

J. L. updated the committee on several topics, including:

Email Systems Acceptable Use and Security Policy: The policy has been approved by the Administrative Council as policy.

IP Telephony: Over the summer, IS&T completed an IP Telephony test pilot. This was a very limited test to get infrastructure and ease of use. Though there were a few bugs, such as static or buzzing and clicking on some lines, these were very positive. The IPT is a better solution over GTA in that it offers more control and functionality, as well as lower costs. If we proceed with campus-wide implementation, first the infrastructure will be upgraded; then, focus on migrating systems. However, there are political issues because of GTA losing revenue for IS&T. USG is moving 60,000 lines from GTA to the new system, and we would need about 10,000 lines. A couple of other campuses have already gone to IPT. The phones run over the data network, so no phone wiring is used, but all functionality of existing phones will be maintained. Bill Fritz said Enrollment Services is looking forward to this new system for the benefit of students. Capital expense for the project has not yet been determined but the intent of the Provost is to use GTA revenue to finance this project—existing rates will cover cost of conversion. There are other issues to be addressed, including E-911. There will be a choice of handsets with a full range of capabilities from basic to video conferencing. Departments’ needs will be evaluated. This new system will reduce the number of outside people we’re dependent on for service, such as GTA.

PeopleSoft HR Implementation: This is in progress, going well, and full cutover is expected January 1.

Vista WebCT: There have been issues this semester with student passwords and UETS is working on a solution. The E-mail must for all who use WebCT and the tune-up should eliminate many access problems. The earlier issues (Spring 2004 performance for Vista) have been resolved. Originally the product was on one server but has been moved to a cluster. About 80 faculty are now using Vista. Karen’s group will be holding workshops in the fall and faculty can now begin moving their courses to Vista (go to www.gsu.edu/uets, select Events then Vista workshops). Eventually there will be a complete move to Vista by December 2005. Old WebCT CE courses can be converted to Vista, but faculty are encouraged to rebuild their courses from scratch to take advantage of basic to video conferencing. A Camtasia video contains information on Vista, login, roles, templates, etc, and can be found by going to www.vista.gsu.edu, selecting “Getting Started>Zip and Rebuild.” Currently there is no hand-out or flyer that simplifies Vista instructions but Karen will look into having one produced.
Symantec Desktop Management System: The Symantec Automated Desktop Management System, iCommand Suite, 10,000 seats and Ghost licenses have been purchased. IS&T and VPFA funded approximately 55% ($200,000) of the purchase; the remaining amount was contributed by IS&T and the colleges. IS&T will pay for maintenance and training. The system allows for a uniform method for desktop management, from installing and maintaining a workstation to decommissioning or re-purposing. It provides hardware and software inventory tracking, an automated operating system patch system, remote control components, a web interface to allow downloading software instead of CDs, and an application packager. The system supports various operating systems including Linux, Solaris, Mac and Windows. IS&T will run a test pilot of the system, then implementation will begin in the areas on campus with the largest number of workstations, such as the labs and classrooms.

Mainframe Decommissioning: The mainframe will be decommissioned on December 31. When HR does the cut, all systems on the mainframe will be gone except for a few auxiliary systems. If anyone needs assistance with migrating or backing up data, contact Alice Pressley (404) 651-2676 / apressley@gsu.edu. Historical student information will be preserved on Banner.

Phase-out of Modem Pool: The IT Strategic Plan of 1996 set the direction to eliminate this service for two reasons:
1. The demand for dial-in access from the university community would continue to grow exponentially; making it practically impossible to satisfy the demand; and 2) There are cost-effective solutions in the commercial sector for access. As part of ongoing efforts to meet the university’s goal of eliminating dial-up access to the campus network, IS&T is reducing the current, active dial-in modem pool from 48 lines to 24 lines. Effective August 31, 2004, the modems and associated phone lines within the number range (404) 657-1623 through (404) 657-1647 will be decommissioned. Anyone who has these numbers configured in their software is advised to immediately change the entry to (404) 657-1600, which is the beginning of the dial-in access rotary. Users can expect an increase in receiving a busy tone when dialing these numbers. To alleviate connection problems, IS&T recommends that all users migrate their connections to one of the local Internet Service Providers that provide much higher connection speeds at very reasonable rates.

Panther Survey: Plans are to distribute another survey as we did about two years ago to determine how the Panther system is being used currently and to determine how these needs can be accommodated if Panther is phased out. An Email will be sent prompting them to read and respond to the survey. No date for the survey has been set.

Identity Management: J. L. said he expects a university group to study this issue will surface in the not too distant future. This is a hot topic and includes userids, authorizations, and building access control.

Legal Liabilities: Because there are students at Georgia State who are under age 18, some as young as 16, there is a question of liability if these minors access inappropriate materials on GSU computers. There must be a legally binding record of notification to each student regarding their use of the network as well as library materials. J. L. and John Marshall will work out a policy and bring it to this committee for review.

Orientation to Student Technology Fee Sub-Committee Process: Marty described the responsibilities and activities of the STF committee for the new ISAT members. Last year, eighty-two proposals were submitted, requesting a total of $6,835,000 for FY 2005 Student Technology Fee (STF) revenue. Fifty-seven proposals were funded, at least in part. See the report to the FACP http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwstf/. Marty stressed the importance of the STF’s work. Orientation with the Corporate Memory report will go out before orientation. Forms and procedures must be in good order. Marty asked the committee to look over the list of 9 items from the FACP report that includes recommendations from the FY2005 STF. Please send any comments or suggestions you have on these items to Amy Bruni.
Tom said that about a year and a half ago, there was talk of educating the GSU community more broadly about technology affects the university campus-wide. He asked if this should be re-addressed. Mary Jane said the University’s Strategic Plan this year; we should align the IT Strategic Plan with the new University Strategic Plan. In planning for the GSU community about IT issues, think in terms of the Strategic Plan. Consider that today’s students have grown up with technology and that by 2015, the student population will have tripled. We must have the infrastructure, classrooms, physical and financial resources to keep up with the demand for services. Bill Fritz said that there have been excellent speakers at EDU meetings, who are forward thinkers in this area. It was suggested that a speaker be invited to Georgia State, perhaps at a Town Hall Meeting. J. L. will look into arranging for a speaker.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted September 1, 2004,
Carolyn Summerlin