

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

MOTION TO CREATE AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

Desiderio Kovar (associate professor, mechanical engineering) submitted the following motion to create a Standing Committee of the General Faculty devoted to information technology issues. The secretary has classified this resolution as general legislation. The Faculty Council will discuss the motion at its meeting on January 24, 2005.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The Faculty Council

MOTION TO CREATE AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

MOTION: I move that the Faculty Council consider creating a new Standing Committee of the General Faculty devoted to information technology issues.

The primary function of a Faculty Council ITS Advisory Committee would be to 1) allow faculty, staff, and students a mechanism for providing input about which services are important and 2) to provide ITS a mechanism to communicate changes and improvements to the campus community. Communications of this type are essential in both improving perceptions and the actual quality of service.

It is my belief that there are at least four general areas that this committee could address that would have a direct impact on faculty, staff, and students:

1. Email Services
 - a. Examples of issues: The current limit on the size of email attachments (5 MB) and a total capacity of 10 MB on email accounts that has not changed in many years and results in bouncing of numerous emails, without notification to the sender. Can this be increased? Are there other improvements in services that would benefit users?
2. Web Services
 - a. Examples of issues: Is the current organization of the UT Web site best serving the needs of students, staff, faculty and visitors? Are there policy changes that could improve the ability of users to find information or improve general usability?
3. Instructional Software
 - a. Examples of issues: Is the existing software (Blackboard) meeting the needs of users? Are there alternatives that may be better?
4. Security
 - a. Example of issues: Is the existing multipassword system (UTEID, Padlock etc.) effective? Are there new technologies available (fingerprint, etc) that UT should be looking towards in the future?

A suggested function statement for the ITS Advisory Committee would be as follows:

Function: To advise in the development of policies and procedures that affect information and technology services.

The suggested make-up of the committee would be similar to the make-up of the existing Library Committee: one or more administrators; eight-to-ten faculty members, two appointed by the Faculty Council; two-to-three undergraduate students; two-to-three graduate students; two staff.

RATIONALE: I believe that, with what is now widespread use of information technology throughout the University, that there is now a need for the creation of a new Type C Faculty Council Standing Committee that would provide oversight and serve in an advisory role to Information Technology Services.