Library and Information Technology Committee, Faculty Senate, University of Tennessee: Minutes

Attendance: Marianne Breinig, Mark Collins, Bharat Mehra, Holly Mercer, Yvonne Pelletier, Joel Reeves, Steven Smith, Robert Spirko, Kathi Wong.

Committee Charge
Duties of the Library and Information Technology Committee include: (1) identifying, reviewing, and recommending information technology policies;(2) representing the Faculty Senate on key university committees that address information technology; (3) reporting to the Faculty Senate on key information technology issues and developments that affect the campus; and (4) ensuring that library services and collections meet the teaching, research, and public service needs of the campus communities with particular focus on library policies and procedures that facilitate use of resources.

Mehra shared the minutes from the last meeting that were approved. The meeting times for the semester were reviewed: Second Monday of the month, 3.30-4.30pm [except the last semester meeting]—March 10; April 14; May 5 (2-3pm).

Smith gave a short explanation and provided administrative context regarding the accreditation policy, procedures, and process for the upcoming library academic program review (APR) scheduled for Tuesday, February 25 at 1:45 in the 605 conference room.

Reeves brought up for consideration an information system issue regarding handling of time dependent assignments and received feedback from committee members about possible ways to handle particular incidents.

Wong brought up the issue for discussion regarding how to get technology (projectors and screens) into classrooms on campus that do not have them. She asked pertinent questions regarding anyone having surveyed classrooms on campus to see what rooms do or do not have projectors/screens. Reeves provided some feedback about minimum technology in rooms designated as nationalized classrooms though it was not clear if there was a systematic strategy in how individual units handle those non-nationalized rooms that are under their jurisdiction. Spirko shared the role of the Classroom Upgrade Technology Committee in this regard. Wong also questioned if there was any way to ensure that instructors/professors who depend on technology get preferred access to rooms with adequate technology to support their teaching needs. Some classrooms in different buildings across campus were cited as examples to illustrate various related issues (e.g., Registrar-controlled rooms, use of Facility Fees, classroom scheduling procedures and process, etc.). The options of physical resources/spaces in the library available to support IT use during teaching were also discussed. Reeves said he would share some relevant information at the next meeting including inventory information of the level of technology in different classrooms, standards followed, etc.

Breinig gave a demonstration of using a tablet connected to a Smart Podium computer using the Splashtop software. Possibilities to deliver course content via Smart phone were discussed. This included Blackboard functionality and apps to deliver content in mobile mode. It was decided to get additional feedback until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.30pm.