

2015-2016 Annual Report
Library and Information Technology Committee
University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
Kathi Wong, chair

We met six times throughout the year; three times each semester.

Technology Issues:

Our biggest undertaking was working with OIT on the Learning Management System (LMS) contract. Our *ex officio* member, **Joel Reeves**, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer (OIT), kept us abreast of developments. The contract with Blackboard was set to expire at the end of Spring 2016, and state law requires rebidding. Members of our committee contributed input to OIT on all aspects of the process, from the initial survey that was run to assess baseline satisfaction/dissatisfaction, to attending presentations of the vendors who bid, to evaluation of the different LMS's. As is known, Canvas won the contract over Blackboard, though both will run concurrently through the 2016-2017 year to give faculty time to change over to the new system.

Concerns about classroom space were raised during meetings following a presentation by **RJ Hinde**, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, at the full Senate early in the year who noted that the university was moving to centralized assignment. Though the Hinde noted that technology issues would be considered in the new process for assigning classrooms, faculty in the Senate meeting noted other concerns about the process. Though these didn't necessarily fall into the category of "technology issues," our chairman met with Hinde to ask that these other considerations be included. Hinde indicated a committee was being formed to address the centralized assignment process, and our chair was able to recommend a Senate member who had expressed interest in the process, who was named to the committee.

Technology is a big part of the accessibility compliance issue, specifically information and class technology, and is likely to be discussed throughout campus to an even greater extent in the semesters that come. **Robert Spirko** of our committee volunteered to serve on the Committee on Accessibility Issues and both Spirko and Reeves made several progress presentations to us.

Another issue that was raised was cellular coverage on campus (especially in newer buildings due to LEED features). OIT is aware of the problem, but the widespread construction on campus makes this an evolving situation.

Finally, our committee facilitated the use of Zoom at Faculty Senate meetings.

Library Issues:

The committee was kept apprised of library developments by the ad hoc member, **Steve Smith**, Dean of Libraries, or his representative, but no major issues were addressed. A current issue which likely will become more serious is a need for storage space. Smith noted that the library had commissioned a report for advice in several areas, and among recommendations and next steps, these included creating a collection strategy committee and moving some staffer members and reconfiguring some department. The library continues to evolve with needs of its patrons. For example, it set up a Veterans' Services office in the OneStop area.

Miscellaneous notes from the chair:

We had 14 members on the committee (including the chair but not including ex-officio or student members). As I noted in last year's annual report, the bylaws notes that we should have 10. We continue to have issues with making a quorum. Perhaps part of the problem is that we do not have a specific actionable mission. Our assigned student members (graduate and undergraduate) seldom attend, but when they do, they provide excellent input -- and more effort on their part to attend would be welcomed. Improving attendance at both the Senate and committee meetings has been discussed, but to my knowledge, a way to resolve the issue has not been presented.

I believe that this committee's mission could be expanded to better serve faculty. We did, in fact, move out of our committee charge a bit by working with the vice provost on classroom space issues beyond the area of technology.

I am preparing a separate document to provide procedures that may be of use to my replacement. It can be obtained by emailing me.

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