2015-2016 Annual Report

Committee membership: Ali Adem (Geology), Christopher Boucher (History), David Desplaces (Chair, School of Business), Bo Kay (Mathematics), Tyler Mobley (Secretary - Libraries), Alem Teklu (Physics), Ashley Vaugh (Education), Theodore Carrigan-Broda (Student Senate representative)

Ex-officio: Deanna Caveny-Noecker (Academic Affairs), Zack Hartje (TLT), and Robert Cape (IT).

The committee met regularly to discuss issues associated with education and technology. Below highlight of the topics discussed and any action/resolution taken by the committee (if applicable)

1. Technology on campus
   Bob Cape/Zack Hartje and IT reported regularly on the status of IT on campus including the following:
   - Replacement cycle is currently longer than 5 years due to limited funding
   - Yammer was rolled out (see below)
   - Technology upgrade has been limited due to funding contractions in the IT budget, the capital intensity of certain renovations and the lack of funding available to Physical Plant to complete such projects – 13 rooms will be completed by this summer (see below)
   - Budget review – budget review was undertaken across campus with an open meeting by the Senate. IT reported shortfalls and reduction as well as their impact on the campus IT operation (see senate notes)
   - TechQual survey has been ended by IT and any further survey effort has been temporarily put on hold
     - FETC: Developed wording for an additional question to be added to the survey to collect data on future IT needs for faculty
   - Direction of Cloud-based applications (Office Cloud 365) – link to business continuity (see below)
   - Voice Over IP (State mandate coming)
     - FETC recommended that committee be part of the pre-roll out to assess effectiveness and that in the future any vendor selection would include input from the faculty and this committee
   - Research network: General discussion took place about needs of faculty to support research effort that would have adequate power (computing, processing) and flexibility. Current beta assessment of needs and soft roll out are underway to assess effectiveness of support or needs
     - FETC: Recommended that future network availability be shared with new faculty and chairs especially for hiring purposes
2. **Tech in classroom**
The committee echoed Faculty concerns regarding the sporadic functionality of imaging in the classroom. IT corrected a few master imaging issues and is currently implementing a better response /communication about reimage or software needs. Update will be requested in the fall.

3. **Technology Classroom Upgrade**
Concerns were raised about the selection process associated with the range of yearly classroom technology upgrades, standards and needs. Constituents concerns were raised.
- **FETC:** Requested an IT report on the process but also the standards associated with such process. Committee discussed findings and made a full report to the Faculty Senate (please see Senate minutes). Overall the committee felt that although not perfect the process meets the needs of the campus. It was noted that not all departments did seek the feedback from their faculty and that the process of selecting a room “owner” requires some coordination or communication across campus to avoid unmet needs in the future.

4. **Yammer**
Committee received concerns about Yammer and requested that IT present to the committee the communication, training and overall roll out effort for discussion. Constituents attended one open committee meeting to ask clarification questions about Yammer. Committee reported to the senate on the progress (see senate minutes).
- **FETC:** Advised IT to increase training opportunities and the visibility of such opportunities

5. **Distance Education**
The committee requested that Doug Ferguson (DE coordinator) and Zach Hartje (TLT) report on the distance education effort at the college. Process currently in place requires that faculty be trained (TLT runs 3 sessions a year including summer now), and that coordinator approve each course with support of department/dean. Data was presented showing the increase in the number of trained faculty but also the number of course offerings even during regular semesters.
- **FETC:** Raised concern of closing the loop by assessing the effectiveness of DE courses. Provost McGee attended meeting and shared that currently the FAM requires Chairs to assess faculty but he agreed with the need to emphasize the qualitative assessment over quantitative assessments (student survey alone are not sufficient – true for promotion and tenure) and to include summer courses as part of the yearly evaluation as well (he reported some inconsistencies across schools/department on including summer courses where the majority of DE courses take place).
- **Resolution:** Provost McGee will be making teaching assessment one of the discussion topics for the coming academic forums this year.

6. **Business Continuity**
The following priority list was created: E-mail and two-way communication; OAKS, because a break in student-faculty communication would cause us to lose a semester
(This last clause might need elaboration); Payroll; Student refunds; File storage and backup; Ability to accept incoming donations (from the Foundation); Remote access to Banner. Some of the above can be partially operated out of the disaster facility in Greenville but IT is studying the possible Cloud-based technology in support of the business continuity effort. The college is currently moving to a cloud-based system including Office 365. The plan is to have Exchange migrated to the Cloud by the end of the June 2016. Furthermore and although originally not funded, a last minute effort to move Oaks to the Cloud was made by IT and originally planned for May 11. The process has been slowed down by a few outstanding migration issues. Both Cloud migrations would have no or very limited effect on faculty. The exchange server would require changing settings only. Oaks would require a day or so of down time but no effect on how faculty would access Oaks.

- FETC: At the recommendation of the committee final migration details should be communicated to the faculty by IT to provide sufficient warning and planning (preparation of teaching material).

7. CIO Search
Bob Cape elected to retire effective April 2016 after 10 years of service at the College. The search for a replacement is currently underway with over 140 applicants, and a committee (including two faculty representatives) is narrowing applicants to 30 or so for possible Skype interviews. Committee will be inviting finalists on campus and hope to complete the search by this summer.

- FETC: Strongly encourages the announcement of any open/public interview of finalists to allow input from faculty.

8. Gmail concern
Google is currently engaged in litigations with various schools for alleged breach of contract associated with Gmail services whereby student emails might have been scanned for marketing purposes. We are currently engaged in a Gmail-type service with Google (students and faculty g.cofc.edu emails only).

- FETC: Requested clarification from IT and Legal Affairs. IT indicated that there is currently no indication Google violated the contract (our contract explicitly did not allow Google to scan emails hosted by them). Legal Affairs indicated that unless evidence indicates that our contract was breached there will be no further inquiries or steps taken. Legal Affairs will be monitoring the litigation. They urge individuals to join any possible class action lawsuits of their own accord.