To: the Faculty Senate
From: Anita J. Stoner, Continuing Assistant Professor of Online Journalism
RE: Service on the Computing Advisory Committee

Specific Data Requested:

1. The committee met once or twice a semester.
2. The current committee chair is Dan Stover.
3. This is a standing committee.
4. Main issue for Faculty Senate: The CAC needs to convene to discuss its purpose and to clarify what role it plays in this University. As it is, it seems rather powerless.

General Report:

During my two years of service, the CAC met and discussed ways to help students with file storage -- and decided that for most documents, professors should urge students to rely on Google Documents. Saving to "the cloud" will cut down on students' loss of portable storage devices such as USB drives. Google offers ample storage space for most students' needs and most common file types.

The CAC also discussed the various campus users of Social Media and recommended that a working group be formed. A directory of Social Media has been created. (contact tamcook@siu.edu).

The CAC also heard reports from IT regarding its issues and initiatives, including a presentation on security. The CAC recommended that if faculty have archival gradebooks with SSNs (pre DawgTag), that the SSNs be removed in case of a security breach.

The CAC investigated the lack of bandwidth that troubled campus during the Fall semester and discovered that the main problem stems from a general lack of bandwidth available in our region. IT did everything possible to bring better bandwidth to campus, and when more bandwidth is available in the regional infrastructure, the CAC agreed that the University should purchase more. That will eventually happen as an RFP.

The CAC explored options for students who need web services. The issue was not resolved but if money grew on trees, the current MyPage server and its services could be upgraded for the use of open source content management systems.

The CAC heard reports on the search for a new Learning Management System. I was appointed to serve as the CAC rep on the LMS RFP committee. The University only received two RFPs. Both vendors came to campus and held open presentations that were well attended by faculty. Faculty can rest assured that whatever LMS is chosen, faculty input was present at all stages of the process. Either choice -- Blackboard upgrade or Desire2Learn -- will have some learning curve.
(note, since I wrote this, the decision is now OK to discuss -- Desire2Learn was selected. Blackboard will run concurrently while we transition)
Although my term ended, I did request that the CAC meet to receive an update on University Web Services. I wanted to learn more about the new system and if all departments would be required to use it, and if there are new standards coming for departments.
(Dan Stover is still trying to arrange this meeting)
One minor issue, but something that should concern faculty...It was noted that traditionally the chair of this committee has always been a faculty member, but Dan Stover is an administrative staff member. He did an outstanding job after Dean Carlson's term ended but this might be an issue for the Faculty Senate to discuss.

Do faculty want to play a larger role in governance over technology on campus? If so, this is the committee on which to serve.

To: Faculty Senate

From: Qingfeng Ge

RE: Report on the service on the Provost Screening Committee

1. How often the committee meets: The Committee met 8 times from March 9th – April 6th.
2. The Committee Chair is Dr. Pat Manfredi (Philosophy and Director of University Core Curriculum).
3. The committee has completed its business.
4. Issues of concerns: None.

I served on the Screening Committee for Provost and Vice Chancellor this Spring semester. The first meeting of the Committee took place on March 9th, with the Chancellor formally charging the committee. Based on the job description, the committee developed a set of criteria and questions for the candidates. The draft questions were placed on Blackboard for comments and suggestions. The committee met for the second time on March 21st decided on the questions and format of meeting the candidates. The committee also determined the candidates to be interviewed based on the position description. The committee then had meetings with five candidates individually, each ~ 1 hrs. There is an additional half hour for discussion after meeting the candidate. The members then communicated the strength and weakness of each candidate anonymously through the Blackboard. The entire committee met for the last time on April 6th and further discussed the comments. The committee voted on the recommendation to the Chancellor at this meeting.

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May 2nd, 2011

William Recktenwald
President, Faculty Senate

Dear Professor Recktenwald,

I am responding to your letter dated April 26th, requesting a report on the activities of the Strategic Enrollment Planning Committee. Unfortunately, I have nothing to report in regards to the activities of the Committee. In the time since I was appointed to represent the Faculty Senate, to the best of my knowledge, no meetings have taken place.

I would be happy to discuss the situation in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Scott Comparato
Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of Undergraduate Studies