**The OIT Academic Advisory Committee Meeting**

**20 March 2012**

**Building 22, Room 133**

**Minutes of the OIT Academic Advisory Committee**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Jason Ball (Office of Information Technology)

Dr. Tamara Dinev (College of Business)

Dr. Eric Freedman (Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters)

Dr. Keith Jakee (Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College)

Dr. Hari Kalva (College of Engineering)

Ms. Amy Kornblau (FAU Libraries)

Dr. Morton Levitt (Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine)

**Members Absent:**

Dr. Ray Amirault (College of Education)

Mr. James Fowlkes (Center for eLearning)

Dr. Anne Vitale (Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing)

**Others Present:**

Ms. Christine Aranda (Office of Information Technology)

Mr. Ivan Aristizabal (Office of Information Technology)

Mr. Mehran Basiratmand (Office of Information Technology)

Mr. Willie Freeman (Center for eLearning)

Ms. Joanne Julia (Office of Information Technology)

Mr. Frank Rodriguez (Office of Information Technology)

**Detailed Minutes:**

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**

Mr. Ball called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. He reported that Information Resource Management (IRM) has been rebranded Office of Information Technology (OIT). Several department names within OIT have also been simplified. The partner campuses are now Northern Technology Services (NTS; formerly Northern Computing Services) and Broward Technology Services (BTS; formerly Broward Computing Services). The old IRM name was a Board of Regents legacy. The primary goal of the name change was to make the department more recognizable to new students and faculty.

1. **Highlights of IRM Status Reports for February –March 2012**

Mr. Ball summarized highlights of the IRM/OIT status reports from the time of the last Committee meeting in January to date [there was no February meeting].

* **Banner Migration —**Banner migration to Linux was successfully completed the weekend of March 10 with only minor glitches. The change should mean a major improvement in performance for the next registration period. Data loads that formerly ran in 16 hours can now be run in 40 minutes. Load simulations are still under way. Banner can now be run out of NWRDC fairly rapidly. Email, file shares, principal websites, and Blackboard data are also replicated there.

Banner is now modular. This means Version 9 modules can work in Version 8. New modules include the faculty grading module and the attendance taking tool.

* **Blackboard Grading in Banner—**The Provost has requested that posting of grades be automated from Blackboard into Banner. This is a tedious process. Using the USF system as a starting point, Frank Rodriguez has created a customized system for FAU.

Mr. Rodriguez demonstrated the customization. There are two options for selecting the grade source: (1) pull the grades from the Grade Center or (2) pull the class roster and enter grades manually. The College of Science will be the pilot group at the end of this term. The customized system will be available for the first summer term if all goes well.

* **VC/eClassroom Upgrades —**Over Spring break, new generation VC rooms were finalized in Nursing and Engineering. Three classrooms—one each in Jupiter, Davie, and Boca (Fleming) —will next be upgraded. The goal is for students to use mobile devices without connecting. The next 20 classrooms will be the first truly digital classrooms. Of the 20, 5 are in Arts & Letters, 2 in Business, and the rest are GC.
* **Google Apps Training**—OIT is working with the Center for eLearning to train faculty on use of Google Apps in the classroom. Students will also be made aware of available features.
* **Turnitin—**A contract is being negotiated for Turnitin to replace SafeAssign as the antiplagiarism tool. During the transition,Turnitin will be run simultaneously with SafeAssign at no additional cost.
* **Research Support—**OIT is investigating how Florida Lambda Rail and Internet 2 can assist researchers with high-bandwidth applications and access to research computing resources. The Engineering Department has a 10-gig segment. There is very little research support from OIT other than Tech Fee-funded proposals. Dr. Miller is discouraged by the lack of movement on growing use of HPC. This is a critical problem that should be addressed.
* **Guest Wireless—**Guest wireless access will be simplified. A limited version will be available that enables guests to browse the Internet.
* **Broward Teaching with Technology Showcase—** The spring Teaching with Technology Showcase was held for the first time in Broward in February. Attendance was very good. Sessions can be viewed online.

1. **Other Business/Open Discussion**

Sofware licensing terms vary. Institutional licenses are common. Microsoft wants the entire university licensed for its products.

Dr. Levitt asked when the Center for eLearning courses would become programs.

Dr. Dinev asked about the OIT budget. Mr. Ball said 2.5% and 5% cut scenarios have been prepared. There are no discretionary funds. Contract maintenance is a large budget expense. The goal is to minimize the impact on students and faculty.

Mr. Basiratmand is acting director of Instructional Technologies.

1. **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no other business to bring before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Aranda

Recording Secretary