Information Resources Council

Annual Report 2004-05

The Information Resources Council met fifteen times during 2004-05. Members were Sarah Goodwin (Chair), Tom O'Connell, Joanne Devine, Mary-Beth O'Brien, Bob Jones, Ann Henderson, Ruth Copans, Corky Reinhart, and Bret Ingerman (replaced by Justin Sipher in spring '05). To quote from an earlier report: "The IRC has no decision-making powers but serves primarily as a forum for different college constituencies to discuss matters of interest related to information resources and technologies, and as an advisory
body for the Dean, the Director of the Library, and the Director of CITS [now IT]. As such, it was a vibrant and useful forum, at which participants learned a great deal from each other." The minutes are posted on the IRC website, accessible through the Faculty Governance link on the Dean of Faculty web page. Topics of the meetings were as follows:

9/22/04 General information, setting agenda for the year. Decided to spend the first three meetings of the year on the three primary topics for the Middle States self-study and their relation to information resources and technology

9/29 Middle States: the First-Year Experience: principally information literacy, library resources, and e-portfolios

10/6 Middle States: the Natural Sciences: principally resource implications of increased IT in the sciences, especially Computer Science and computational sciences; library resources and challenges; relation between IT and student engagement in the sciences

10/20 Middle States: Cultural Diversities: principally ways that IT can expand upon and deepen globalization of the curriculum and connections with programs abroad; challenges in ensuring that all students have similar access to and familiarity with IT and information resources, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds

11/3 Email, especially problems with Spam, options for solutions

11/17 Digital images: delivery, quality, transition from slides to digital, need for further discussion and consultation; included a demonstration of slides vs. digital images

12/01 Update on the new Oracle student system due to go live in the spring

12/15 CITS' proposed new user-name policy

12/21 Information technology budget review for FY 06

2/4/05 Information technology in the Strategic Plan: recommendations to the IPC

2/18 Further discussion and refinement of recommendations for IT in the Plan

3/4 Open discussion with Justin Sipher, new director of the Center for Information Technology (CITS)

3/25 The Net Generation: how our students live with technology today; how we should be shaping our uses of instructional technology to engage our students and enhance learning

4/1 E-portfolios: who wants them, for what, at what cost, what they are, and which programs

4/22 Digital video: who is using it, in what courses, requiring what resources, with what results, and requiring what further planning

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Goodwin, Chair

September 10, 2005