Information Technology Committee Meeting
Jan. 23, 2015
Held Electronically

Present: Mark Beattie, Jacqueline Gage, Toni Jackman, Jennifer Lerner, Anne Loochtan, Steve Sachs, Bernard Schmidt, Cathy Simpson, Allen Sinner, Julia Turner, Frances Villagran-Glover, Bo Yang

Dr. Sachs gave an overview of items to be covered during this meeting.

Dr. Sachs explained the process for the College’s technology plan, the timeline for submission of next year’s plan through Administrative Council, and then to the VCCS for final approval.

Comment on Information Technology Strategic Plan
We have done quite a bit in preparation for updating NOVA’s long range strategic plan. Some things in planning have been put on hold pending a new President. The Information Technology Committee will work on the Strategic Plan at a future date.

Overview of the FY 15 College Technology Plan
Dr. Sachs presented the FY15 IT spending budget and the proposed central technology funding plan for 2016. It does not include all NVCC technology spending. The plan that will be submitted to the VCCS must include all college tech expenditures. He explained each line item and provided some background on each. He paused for questions as he went. Software costs are both enterprise and academic software. Because of the importance of academic software, it is budgeted for central funding. Computers must be replaced every 4 years and the increase in numbers increases costs. Classroom equipment is on a 5 year replacement cycle. We have not replaced classroom equipment on a consistent cycle so some years the expense is higher. We are trying to even out those expenses. The college approved classroom configuration is what is funded centrally. If campuses chose to add upgraded things, it is at campus expense. We replaced more telephones last year to accommodate upgraded panic button features. Technologies change constantly which requires some flexibility in the technology funding plan as things come up.

A question was raised about the status of funding for Adobe. Dr. Sachs discussed the problem we have had in the past regarding Adobe licenses and the present status of that. How we license in the future may change to licensing only what is needed for teaching specific Adobe products.

Adjustments to the Plan—Classroom Updates
Last fall we received our technology plan funding very late so that not all classrooms could be updated. After doing this year’s GAP, it was discovered more rooms need to be updated this year than were expected. Because we were able to spend some end of FY14 for computer replacement, funds can be diverted to classroom updates to get us caught up.

VCCS Shared Services
Last year we were involved in a major VCCS project to coordinate shared services across the system. Small colleges cannot take advantage of economy of scale, such as we can. Infrastructure changes are being reviewed to help those smaller colleges.
Help Desk Issues
Dr. Sachs commented that he sometimes gets complaints about HD response time and how their calls were handled. He explained that BlackBoard provides the afterhours support. He gave information on the number of calls handled by NVCC’s HD and by BlackBoard. Dr. Sachs will provide data on all this at a future meeting. The VCCS has been considering doing a Consolidated HD as one of the shared services. We do not have information on how that will work.

Future Meetings
Dr. Sachs asked what is good day for future meeting? The committee agreed that Fridays were the best day to meet.

There were no other concerns from the committee to discuss.