

Infrastructure Council
Minutes
November 12, 2008
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Reitz Union Room 283

Attendees:

Jane Brockmann
Tim Young
Ed Poppell
Carol Walker
Mark Orazem
Tom Caswell
Shelly Foss
Brian Weber
Rae Jesano
Chuck Frazier
Bill Millard

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM.

The minutes of the October 21 meeting were approved.

The council discussed university infrastructure and financing with Ed Poppell.

The council discussed rising utility costs. Costs are estimated to rise:

- Steam 12%
- Water 36%
- Natural Gas 20%
- Electricity currently has increased 4%.
- The University can expect an increase of about 28.6% in January.

This results in an approximate \$11.1 million deficit.

The entire utility budget will be approximately \$41 million next year.

The University's electricity is primarily driven by coal.

There are several conservation programs currently underway including:

- Grassroots turn off lights, computers
- Optimized chilled water plants
- Darkened hallways
- Re-lamped the entire campus with more efficient fluorescents
- Turned thermostat down
- Day lighting sensors are being installed in some buildings
- Low flow water fixtures
- Low- e glazing on buildings
- Silver LEED standard buildings
- Pilots for low flow fume hoods

The council can help these efforts by serving as "cheerleaders" on conservation. The council can also help to give feedback as to how to better communicate sustainability messages to faculty. Amelia Bell will follow up with the Sustainability committee to get a representative to sit on Infrastructure Council.

The council suggested that important conservation messages come through Deans or Department chairs because email sent to listservs is often classified as spam.

The council also suggested that initiatives should be brought to each college's faculty council in order to convey a compelling case to the faculty and express the urgency and need for conservation.

The council discussed information technology issues with Chuck Frazier.

The council proposed specific requests regarding IT including the ability to:

- download student evaluations in a useable format
- download student committee information in a useable format from GIMS
- improve faculty/administration communication
- have a campus wide calendar that would be accessible by everyone

Chuck Frazier discussed specific proposals on obtaining greater faculty input on IT issues:

- Have a separate governance structure with faculty committee that deals with IT issues of a particular type- (maybe a joint committee).
- Use infrastructure council to share information
- Utilize IT committees within colleges to approve decisions locally. These committees will be comprised of both faculty and IT people.
- Make sure there is faculty representation on ITAC- not just subcommittees.

Involved faculty need to have a specific interest in and level of understanding of specific IT issues.

Frazier discussed the University IT structure including the core set of features, infrastructure, applications, and user support. There are some issues such as policies, standards and security issues that need to occur at the University level. Greater faculty input would help to make sure that these issues are sensitive to faculty teaching and research needs.

Administration needs to ensure that issues are weighed and at the end of the day they need to make a decision.

The council discussed the need to create a governance structure to represent faculty, staff and students that will cover the range of user types college by college.

The Infrastructure council may create a subcommittee of knowledgeable people to serve in this capacity.

The council will find out how many colleges have a structured committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM