MINUTES  
Information Technology Student Advisory Committee  
Monday, October 28, 2013

Invitees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Representatives:</th>
<th>NUIT Representatives:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ani Ajith, ASG President, WCAS Present</td>
<td>Krish Suresh, WCAS Present</td>
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<td>Sofia Sami, ASG Academic VP, WCAS Present</td>
<td>Mikhail Tsirtsan, SoC Present</td>
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<td>Anna Kottenstette, ASG Student Life VP, SoC Present</td>
<td>Stephanie Brehm, GSA President</td>
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<td>Sheng Wu, ASG Technology VP, MEAS Present</td>
<td>Xi Chen, GSA Communications Chair Present</td>
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<td>Chase Eck, WCAS Present</td>
<td>Roman Kazantsev, GSA Service Co-Chair Present</td>
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<td>Ian Hendrickson, Bienen School of Music Present</td>
<td>Jeremy Needle, GSA Social Chair Present</td>
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<td>Haley Hinkle, Medill Present</td>
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Welcome and Introductions
Wendy welcomed and introduced new committee members and told them minutes will be posted on the website where they can also find the committee charter.

Reports and Feedback

Technology Support Services

- **Wi-Fi Update** – Wendy reported that over the summer NUIT worked closely with Student Affairs to improve Wi-Fi service in residence halls. At this time McCulloch, Shepard Hall and Hobart House have all been updated. As some of the buildings are very old, they will need to be re-wired; Allison and Mid-Quads are two examples of residence hall that will incur extra costs to accomplish this. At this time, approximately 70% of the University has Wi-Fi coverage with a goal of 84% coverage by end of year. She reminded the committee that personal networks can cause havoc to wireless reception and may conflict with existing access points. Students need to continue to report any and all reception issues by going on-line or call 1-HELP, enabling NUIT to track occurrences and resolve issues.

- **DAS (Distributed Antenna Service)** – Wendy reported that NU is continuing to look for a carrier agnostic vendor in addition to further explore other ways to extend DAS on campus. Students expressed frustration with reduced cellular signal during games at the football stadium. Bob Taylor
told the committee that during games, AT&T and T-Mobile provide portable boosters but even that wasn't adequate for the Ohio State game.

- **NUTV retired** – Wendy said that prior to NUTV retiring this summer, Paul Riel, Executive Director of Residential Services confirmed that residence halls had a public space with a large TV for viewing. Students commented that even with a public viewing space available, conflicts still occur when some students want to view other programming. Wendy mentioned that many students already subscribe to Netflix or HULU Plus. Student Affairs is continuing to look at replacement content providers and technologies. These issue primarily only concerns undergraduate students, since graduate students have cable in their residence halls. Students commented that they would be glad to help organize or participate in a survey on a possible replacement for NUTV.

- **Adobe licensing update** – Wendy said there is a signed agreement for faculty and staff to purchase Adobe at a reduced cost. Medill paid Adobe a negotiated rate for purchase, selling it to their students at a substantial savings. Bob Taylor said a software license for Mathmatica is available to faculty, staff and students for free and is available on the NUIT website.

- **New Students Week** – Bob Davis reported that TSS assisted 220 students on moving day, and helped more than 1500 students during the first and second week. The Norris Service Point helped a little over 200 students at Laptop ER. Stephanie Brehm asked about support for graduate students and Bob Davis mentioned that NUIT did present and participate in the Graduate Student Forum this year.

### Academic and Research Technologies

- **Classroom Tracking** – Bob Taylor reported that Kresge Hall is an older structure but during the renovation there will be an opportunity to enhance and upgrade Wi-Fi. He said that after renovation, it would feel like a new building.

- **Alternatives to Blackboard** – Bob Taylor reported that 16 courses are now offered in Canvas Learning Systems, a strong alternative to Blackboard. Canvas is cloud based and updated every three weeks.

- **NU Planning Retreat** – Bob Taylor reported that alternative learning management systems were a hot topic of discussion during the recent NUIT retreat. Canvas, 2U and Desire2Learn are alternatives presently being tested and considered. Canvas is simpler to use and has some interesting features like a built in polling component. He said Canvas is more costly out of pocket, but Blackboard is losing market share and is becoming more aggressive in their pricing. He encouraged committee members to look at the blog about this and other issues on the NUIT home page, [http://www.lmsblog.it.northwestern.edu/](http://www.lmsblog.it.northwestern.edu/)

- **Online Ed Updates** – Again, Bob Taylor discussed the pros and cons.
  - Coursera has completed the first MOOCs. Registration sign-ups are typically huge at the onset, and then funnel down to about ¼ of sign-ups actually completing the course. MOOCs offer an opportunity to create compelling content that can also be leveraged in traditional courses. No credits are offered, but if you get a score of 70% or higher, you get the instructor’s signature of completion. NU continues discussions with Brown, Michigan and other universities.
  - 2U – Enrollment is growing, but they do offer credit courses. Bob mentioned that Georgia Tech will be offering a MOOC based MS in Computer Science program for a cost of about $7,000.

- **Video Camera checkout** – Vicky Getis told the committee that video cameras, including HD, are now available for checkout at the NU Library.

- **Mudd Research Computing** – Vicky Getis reported that re-locating A&RT’s Research Computing group at the Mudd Library has offered researchers more opportunities due to their proximity on campus.
ASG

- **Res25Live** – Committee members reported this site is very difficult to reserve space on campus for performance groups or an event. They think a university wide space reservation system would be helpful. Wendy suggested they reach out to Mike Mills on this issue.

- **Software specific to schools** – The issue of specific software for different schools was discussed. For example; The Bienen School of Music needs ‘Logic’ software, and students asked how they could encourage the school to make this available to them for free or at a reduced cost. Wendy recommended they reach out to Rene Machado, Associate Dean of Administration in the Bienen School of Music.

GSA:

- **IT support** – GSA asked if there is IT support for PlanIt Purple available to them. Wendy told them to contact Janet Dobbs, Director of University Web Communications about this issue. They mentioned having issues with spam in Gmail (not @U) and Wendy told them direct their questions about this issue to Bob Davis in TSS.

Additional Discussion

Summary of Action Items

Adjourn