

Faculty Council on Educational Technology
2008-2009 Annual Report
Submitted by Werner Kaminsky, Chair

The Faculty Council on Educational Technology (FCET) met monthly between October 2008 and June 2009. Throughout the year the council received updates from Catalyst and other groups.

Specifically, the Council invited Erik Lundberg, Laboratory Director, Computer Science and Engineering and Bill Yock, Associate Vice Provost for the Office of Information Services, to brief FCET on the possibility of including research data in current developments of fiscal and administrative data structures. As it stands, the University is only prepared to provide the “card box-to-a-shelf” option for storage of such data. FCET will follow this issue in the coming year to set the directions for providing more contemporary forms of data storage.

Tom Lewis and Cara Lane reported on the results of the Learning Technology Survey. Terry Gray gave a presentation and lead a discussion about the UW’s Cloud computing efforts. Work continued with Anis Bawarshi and John Webster from the Writing School on draft Class C Resolution to introduce and regulate the usage of online similarity tools. This legislation was carefully drafted and represented five years of research and deliberation on this issue by FCET members.

This resolution was presented twice to the Senate Executive Committee but failed both times due to significant objections by Anis Bawarshi and John Webster. (See the minutes of the May 4, 2009, Senate Executive Committee meeting for a summary of the final Committee discussion and a copy of the draft resolution.) A web questionnaire had been created on FCET’s council website to survey users’ experiences with automatic similarity tools. FCET is continuing to address misconceptions about online technology and plagiarism, and it participated in a software presentation on the fifth annual symposium on Teaching and Learning at the UW.

FCET looked into the possible benefits of using cameras connected to the internet for educational purposes, as these cameras are inexpensive and easily installed. However, a set of recommendations was considered necessary to guide a proper use of such cameras. Thus, a Class C Resolution was presented to the Senate Executive Committee for consideration which succeeded in the second attempt and was approved by the Faculty Senate at its meeting of January 29, 2009. A copy can be seen at the following website:

http://www.washington.edu/faculty/facsen/legislation/class_c/class_c_477.pdf