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Subject Re: resolution on computers for faculty

All, I went to the coordinating council meeting this past Mon. and briefly was able to speak about what we are working on. There seemed to be broad support for computers for faculty. I've sent the president of the senate an e-mail to determine what my next steps are to bring this idea out of committee and into reality.

For those of you who missed our last meeting, here is the resolution on computers that we've drafted so far:

The Senate Committee on Computing and Communications recognizes that computer presentations have become the norm for classroom teaching amongst faculty. We therefore recommend that the University provide all full-time faculty with computers (laptop/desktop) to facilitate their teaching activities. We further recommend that replacement computers (technology refresh) be made available every 4 years. This initiative will help maintain Stony Brook's lead in innovative classroom teaching.

Further comments are welcome.

I have learned a little more about providing computers to faculty. My Dept. chair was formerly an assistant Dean in Arts and Sciences, and he stated that they used to have a program where they would provide computers to faculty who needed them, based on a prioritization made by the respective chairs. It is not clear that this is still functioning, and at its peak, I was told, about 70 computers were distributed (the majority of which were laptops). Members of the executive council seemed to believe that this program was no longer active either.

Does anyone know anything more about this program? or is anyone willing to investigate in their own college? I think that we should know a bit more of the history in order to defend and promote our resolution.

Next topic:

I would like to make network infrastructure be the next big push of our committee -- so that will likely occupy next year. For this we will want the cooperation of the DoIT people, as I believe our only chance of success in providing a path to network upgrades on campus is to present a united front.

On this topic, I have notes that I took a while back from when Behzad Barzideh gave a presentation to our committee on the current level of connectivity. I think that we will want an update on this, but perhaps this will wait until next year. I will type up a summary of my notes and send them along in a separate e-mail.

Next meeting:

I anticipate one more meeting of our committee before the term is over. I will schedule this once I hear back from Bernard Lane about procedures for bringing this resolution forward. I will invite Rich Reeder to attend, as a starting off point on the network infrastructure push. I hope to make use of some of the summer months to research this topic more as well.

Mike

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