Date: May 6, 2002

To: Faculty Senate

From: Renee Houston, Chair Library Media and Academic Computing Committee

Subject: Library Media and Academic Computing Committee Year End Report

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The committee completed most of its charges this year, but still has some work to complete. In order to work toward accomplishing our goals more effectively, we created two subcommittees – an intranet subcommittee and a teaching with technology subcommittee to focus the committee's efforts on some of our more specific charges. The intranet subcommittee reviewed several websites for ideas to inform options we might like to include on the faculty website. At then end of the Spring term, Dean Washburn presented a prototype of a new faculty web page at which time we were prepared to offer concrete suggestions to enhance the usability of the web page for faculty.

A great deal of our year was spent working with OIS identifying technology issues that concern faculty. To that end, we both discussed the importance of planning for more electronic classrooms and reviewed technology for adoption. Concerning the former, in order to address the growing needs of faculty who would like to use electronic classrooms, we recommended that the Assistant Dean work in conjunction with OIS to develop a plan for creating more classrooms with technological capabilities. In the case of the latter, we reviewed, with OIS, Content DM and courseware. In particular, we recommended the university-wide adoption of Blackboard to the Technology Planning Group. In our report we highlighted the importance of providing training for faculty who would like to use courseware in their classes.

Given the nature of the committee's charges, the committee continues to work on all of our charges:

1. Function as an advisory committee to OIS and the Library, with special emphasis on faculty issues and concerns regarding technology use
2. Consider ways of ensuring that the committee is aware of faculty sentiment regarding technology issues
3. Continue an ongoing assessment of technology use in the classroom
4. To continue to develop and publicize the technology web site
5. To consider ways to reduce "information overload" for faculty regarding technology initiatives, programs, and courses on campus

But, we have not completed:

3. Continue an ongoing assessment of technology use in the classroom

Although we convened a teaching with technology subcommittee to address this issue, a great deal of our time during the Spring semester was spent reviewing courseware which required extra meetings and eliminated time the subcommittee had available to meet.

Charges from the senate for the next year could include:

1. Reviewing the process of acquisition of new technologies
2. Function as an advisory committee to OIS and the Library, with special emphasis on faculty issues and concerns regarding technology use
3. Continue an ongoing assessment of technology use in the classroom
4. To continue to develop and publicize the technology web site

5. To consider ways to reduce "information overload" for faculty regarding technology initiatives, programs, and courses on campus

In order to focus more on charge two, for next year we plan to create subgroups consisting of a LMAC committee convener and relevant parties. This will insure that interested faculty will be included in the discussion of the adoption of a particular piece of software which may support their work.