INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FITAC Annual Report
March 24, 2006
Jim Porto (Chair)

This is the seventh year that FITAC has met, but FITAC has not met consistently over the fall of 2006. During the Spring of 2005 FITAC met every two weeks. The meetings have focused on assessing IT activities across campus and determining FITAC's role within these activities. Minutes of FITAC meetings and prior annual reports may be found at http://www.unc.edu/fitac/.

I. FITAC Activities: 2004-2005

Since January 2005, FITAC has focused on organizational issues. The central question the Committee has addressed is how faculty input can be provided into IT policy decisions and how information can be disseminated to faculty about IT issues affecting them. To provide connections to facility information flow throughout the IT structure, FITAC has initiated or explored several actions.

1. Establishing closer ties with School Information Technology Directors by holding joint meetings and requesting periodic updates from each of the Schools.

FITAC held a joint meeting with the Information Technology Directors Group (ITD) and discussed ways to better inform each other.

2. Having Chair of FITAC attend Information Technology Directors (ITD) monthly meetings.
3. *The FiTAC chair has attended most of the monthly ITD meetings over the year.*
4. Seeking to get FITAC representation from every School.

Discussions centered on seeking representation on FITAC from each of the following schools. Currently the College of Arts and Sciences hold the largest number of seats. No action has been taken to implement this idea.

School of Information and Library Science
School of Nursing
School of Education
School of Dentistry
School of Government
Kenan-Flagler Business School
School of Social Work
College of Arts and Sciences
School of Public Health
School of Medicine
School of Pharmacy
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
School of Law

Libraries

4. Exploring the possibility of setting up, or coordinating with existing, School FITACs with overlapping membership in the University-wide FITAC.

Many, but not all, of the Schools have some form of technology committee. FITAC discussed the possibility of working with school ITD's and the Deans to coordinate efforts between "local" FITAC groups and the University FITAC. No action as been taken.

5. Providing at least one FITAC member on each of the following seven IT advisory Committees that report to the CIO and the ITD.

Committee	Faculty Representatives
User Support and Communications	Steve Melamut (FITAC) Tim McMillan (FITAC)
Telecommunications	Brian Kuhlman Kevin Jeffay Bill Marzluff
Research Computing	Sarav Arunachalam Jennifer Conrad Donna Gilleskie Lee Pedersen Harvey Seim Kirk Wilhelmsen
Security and Institutional Compliance (Not met)	Jim Porto (FITAC)
Teaching, Learning and Academic Computing	Lorraine Alexander Melissa Bullard Wally Hannum Vickie Kowlowitz (FITAC) Donna Lefebvre Abigail Panter John Stewart (FITAC) Nicola Terrenato Rachel Willis
Financial Planning and HR	None
Enterprise Applications and Data Management	Jim Porto (FITAC)

Committee	Faculty Representatives
ITD Committee	Jim Porto (FITAC)

II. FITAC Activities 2005-2006

1. FITAC chair served on the search committee for eight Assistant Vice Chancellors.
2. FITAC heard presentations from IT staff on the use of Corporate Calendar, on the Technical Assessment and Planning Group (TAP).
3. FITAC held a joint meeting with the ITD.
4. FITAC chair participated in the ITD/IT retreat in March of 2006.
5. FITAC met with the Associate Vice Chancellor to discuss role of FITAC in the organizational structure of IT.
6. FITAC chair is on one of the IT strategic planning committees.

III. FITAC Mission and Role

Charge to the Committee:

" 4-26. Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee. The chair of the faculty appoints the committee. It shall consist of (i) faculty members, who shall constitute a majority of the members; and (ii) one or more students, serving one-year renewable terms. The committee represents to the chancellor and the University community the concerns of faculty and others with regard to information technology. The committee's functions include:

1. considering issues pertaining to the use of information technology in teaching and learning, research, and other professional activities in the University; and

2. advising University officers and offices of administration on faculty needs and interests relating to information technology."

The Committee has discussed extensively FITAC's role in advising University Officers and representing faculty. Even though members have benefited individually from participating in FITAC activities, the relevance of the current charge to the larger faculty community may be questioned if (1) faculty concerns are not adequately identified and represented, and (2) advice on strategic direction for IT is not systematically relayed to administrators and considered in administrative decision making. To fulfill the charge to FITAC, we have considered the following actions:

1. Requesting that the new Faculty Chair work toward making appointments that will include all 14 schools.
2. Requesting that the mission of FITAC be expanded to include advising University officers on the strategic directions that IT should take along with relaying needs and interests relating to information technology.
3. Requesting that some level of support be assigned to FITAC in its role of determining faculty needs, interests, and views on the strategic direction of IT.

4. Initiating discussions throughout the campus community on the strategic importance of IT to the University's mission.

Probably the most enduring accomplishment of FITAC over the past several years has been the Convocation on Scholarly Communications suggested by Jim Noblett when he Chaired FITAC. This contribution is in the best tradition of an academic institution—taking on a significant problem through investigation, debate, and finally follow up action. We do not suggest that FITAC be responsible for hosting convocations, but that a systematic program of selecting topics, financing and coordinating convocations on issues of concern to the faculty be established so that we, and other groups, can petition for a campus-wide convocation on issues vital to the Carolina Community. For example we have identified the need to have a vigorous discussion on The Future of Classroom Education, especially in a rapidly changing IT environment and the rise of for-profit competitors using new technologies.

FITAC would like the sense of the faculty council how FITAC can best meet the needs of the council and the larger faculty community and what role it should play representing the faculty.

Term Members

Name	Department	Term Ending
Tim McMillan	African/Afro-American Studies	
Jim Porto	Public Health	Spring
Diane Strauss	Academic Affairs Library	2006
Landor Geissingerr)	Mathematics	
Ed Blocher	Business	
Tracy Heenan	Medicine	
Vicki Kowlowitz	Nursing	Spring
Wallace McLendon	Health Sciences Library	2007
Claudia Gollop	Information and Library Science	
Steve Melamut	Law Library	
Judith Wegner	Faculty Council	Ex Officio

Ex Officio Staff Members

Carl, Linda	Office of Distance Learning	lcarl@email.unc.edu
Green, Charles	Asst. Vice Chancellor	green@unc.edu
Peed-Neal, Iola	Center for Teaching & Learning	iola@email.unc.edu
Carol Tresolini	Associate Provost	carol_tresolini@med.unc.edu