

INFORMATION RESOURCES COUNCIL

Minutes
March 9, 2010

PRESENT: Jennifer Bonner, Ruth Copans, Deb Hall, Ann Henderson, Susan Kress (Chair), Andrew Lichtenberg, Michelle Paquette, Laura Paul, Justin Sipher

ABSENT: Beth Dupont, Mike West

GUESTS: Pat Hilleren, Mark Huibregtse

Chair Susan Kress opened the meeting at 2:34 p.m. by welcoming everyone and noting that the focus of this meeting was to discuss the possible elimination of the IRC. This conversation developed at the last IRC meeting, held February 9, 2010, as the committee discussed the FEC resolution that was passed at the February 5, 2010 faculty meeting concerning reduction of committee memberships. The committee thought it would be a good idea to hold this open meeting to discuss the possible elimination of IRC.

Susan noted that she received 9 responses from faculty members who were unable to attend this meeting. Deb Hall indicated she was pleased at how many faculty and former IRC members responded in support of elimination. One response that gave her pause included the comment that IRC is the only forum for faculty to have a voice in decisions made by IT. Justin responded to this concern by indicating that, if any major policy change is proposed, IPPC, which has faculty representation, would be the vehicle for approving any such change. Further, he noted that any proposed changes relating to the academic operation would need to include consultation with students, faculty and staff.

Susan indicated that if we eliminate IRC, we would need to think about a structure for the support and encouragement of cutting-edge technology for pedagogical purposes.

One concern about the elimination of IRC was that all issues that might have otherwise come to IRC might become burdensome to other committees or result in the creation of subcommittees. One suggestion was that IT could host a yearly meeting to discuss technological issues.

FEC's representative indicated that if the IRC proposed to disband, it should develop a rationale to bring to FEC. FEC would then prepare a motion or resolution to be brought to the faculty. Susan indicated that IPPC will be discussing the possible elimination of IRC at its next meeting.

In anticipation of our next meeting, Susan will review past annual reports to analyze what issues were brought to IRC and requested that the group think about what issues the IRC might be facing in the future so that our next conversation can focus on how to manage non-academic policy issues (academic issues would go to CEPP).

Susan thanked everyone for coming and concluded the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Peterson
Executive Administrative Assistant