Green IT (GITAG) Minutes

August 14, 2012
MC-2018A
2:30 – 3:30

Present: Tim Farrell, Julio Gonzalez, Sandra Laughlin, Rick Loney, James McCarthy, Scott Paterson, Kevin Rampersad, Christine Roth, David Wallace (CIO), Lowell Williamson

Business Arising from Previous Meetings

1. Printing Position Paper- Chris is still confused about web page she volunteered to create.
2. Newsletter-There have only been a couple of responses to Lowell’s request for articles, articles need to be submitted by August 27.

New Business

We had a very successful discussion with the new CIO, David Wallace. He is keen to pursue environmentally responsible initiatives and has some good ideas for how we can expand our presence on Campus. Some of the key points discussed are:

1. What should be the goals of our group? Some thoughts are: managing the disposal of e-waste, doing more with what we have, don’t change technology so often, implementing more power management, using more centralized services. The Xerox printers are an example of a centralized service—we discussed some of the problems we have noted, for example, why people don’t want to use them (charging, support, reliability). Retail Services didn’t consult IT groups before purchasing the units and it may be that they were not correctly specified for our needs.
2. Changing attitudes—for example, convincing staff that they don’t have to print everything. It has also been noted that outdated procedures are still in place, for example, the Office of Research requires 17 copies of a proposal submission. It might be good to show some successes and get buy-in from higher profile campus groups. We might consider some kind of a pilot project that will get the key groups working together. Plant Operations is one of the most important groups to include.
3. The process of disposing of e-waste may be working well. We will likely arrange a ‘field trip’ later in the fall to Central Stores to see for ourselves how it works. It would be interesting to ask if they are they getting reports of how e-waste is disposed of.
4. Software & packaging—these days most companies make their software downloadable. UW should go more that way instead of handing out installation DVDs and filling out paperwork.
5. We could pursue a green IT ‘report card’ for UW. We can come up with a set of criteria and look at how each faculty is doing. Then we can discuss how we can improve and how long it will take (timeline). There is a cost to not be green, not just financially but also to our image. How do we compare to other institutions?
6. Computer labs--could they be more efficient? Indications are that students would prefer more multipurpose rooms with excellent wireless connections, monitors, whiteboards, etc. where they can collaborate and use their own laptops.
7. We could come up with a mock-up of what an efficient and ‘green’ office would look like.
8. We could look for more participation from on campus researchers, who often do development work for outside companies. They seem willing to help but need something to work with.