ITPB Annual Report

2010-2011

Chair: Kathleen Komar, Professor
Vice Chair: Jerry Kang, Professor
Ex-Officio & Vice Provost: Jim Davis, Professor
The 2010 ITPB was under the leadership of Professor Kathleen Komar as Chair and Professor Jerry Kang as Vice-chair. The ITPB agenda for the academic year balanced short-term and long-term strategic issues, stressing critical infrastructure for research and education, the maturing of the ITPB as the UCLA governance entity responsible for strategic direction and policy, and the campus’ general interest in academic planning. Additionally, this year ITPB proactively sponsored two planning projects on behalf of faculty and students.

The major accomplishments for the 2010-11 ITPB are:

1. Endorsement of the Research Informatics and Computational Data Initiative
2. Review of the E-Dossier Project
3. Endorsement of the Digital Citizen Initiative as defined by a suite of projects undertaken and planned
4. Formal Review of a revised funding approach for the UC Online Instructional Pilot Program
5. Review of the Mobile Web Framework and Applications
6. Formal Three-Year Review of the Technology Infrastructure Fee and Endorsement of recommended changes
7. Review for Endorsement of an Outsourcing Student and Alumni Email Planning initiative
8. Sponsorship of Faculty Digital Presence and Student Technology Outreach planning initiatives

*The Research Informatics and Computation Data Initiative*

The ITPB commissioned a campus scan to help project, define and frame UCLA’s institutional research data management needs in relation to several primary drivers:

- Research and education data embody significant intellectual assets that need to be managed, protected and organized for accessibility and re-use.
- Research data need to be organized for analysis, mining and merging with other databases to support data-intensive research.
- Research data management will soon become a regulatory requirement in NSF federal grants. It is already a requirement for NIH grants.

The ITPB subsequently supported a campus planning initiative that took the form of an RFP process led through the IDRE directed by Warren Mori and the Institute for Informatics (I2) directed by Art Toga. The RFP process was designed to draw upon the expertise on the campus and to identify and support prototype projects that can be scaled to support broader faculty needs. The RFP process was highly successful by producing 35 proposals and supporting 8 projects.

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1 Data in the form of statistics, records, observations, simulation and modeling results, portfolios, images, audio, compilations, archives, etc.
The E-Dossier Project

The ITPB reviewed and supported a project to plan an e-dossier and academic process system. Presented by Tom Rice, VC for Academic Affairs and Jim Davis, Vice Provost IT, the e-dossier system envisions a data-driven application that is web-based, with drop down menus, integrated student evaluations, direct links to publications, outside letters with templates, and the ability for review to be totally online. The application would be capable of generating annual reports (such as the number of publications during a specific year in a particular journal) or CVs for grant applications.

The Digital Citizen Initiative

The Digital Citizen initiative is a concept in the IT 2020 plan to support faculty, staff and students with their individual preparedness for using information technology. The concept was prototyped as a series of targeted events and resources that include, “10 Minute Tech Tips” for faculty, LearnIT, self study vignettes, and First Fridays for emeriti. By utilizing existing volunteer technical help, the Digital Citizen initiative has been able to extend technical training and assistance to a varied population, including emeriti/retirees. The ITPB endorsed this conceptualization of the Digital Citizen initiative and encouraged expansion.

Online Education

At the request of the Academic Senate, the ITPB reviewed a proposal from UCOP to change the funding for the UC Online Instructional Pilot Program from grant funding to an internal loan. After initial development, the online education project failed to find the funding the proposers had anticipated. The ITPB joined the FCET in raising strong concerns with funding the UC OIPP with a loan and putting it into a situation in which success would depend on revenues from non-UC students. Additionally, the ITPB challenged the market potential for revenues. The ITPB’s review encouraged the exploration of online learning, but did not endorse the approach as written.

Finalization of the Technology Infrastructure Fee

At the request of EVC Scott Waugh, the ITPB conducted a three-year review of the Technology Infrastructure Fee. Led by Kathy Komar, an ITPB subgroup reviewed the funds collected from each unit and collected from different constituencies, examined how the funds were used and the effectiveness of the funds. The subgroup made a number of recommendations that, overall, supported continuing the existing model for collecting the fee but using the fee only for operations. The subgroup also recommended that there be a separate planning fund. The ITPB endorsed the recommendations.

Mobile Applications and Framework

At the request of VP Jim Davis, the ITPB reviewed a proposal to continue the effort toward a unified mobile presence (begun in 2009) through the development of a UCLA Mobile Web Framework. Of particular concern to the ITPB was the formation of a
Mobile Steering Committee, close integration with CCLE to coordinate applications for students and teaching, issues related to privacy and overall mobile strategy, and collaboration with other UC campuses. This topic will be brought to ITPB again for future updates.

Outsourcing Email Initiative

The Outsourcing Email Initiative, which currently focuses only on students and alumni, was reviewed for endorsement by ITPB at the last meeting of the 2010-11 year. The task force, headed by Julie Austin (HSSEAS), ultimately recommended outsourcing student and alum email to Google.

ITPB requested further analysis of this topic from the technical community, students, and campus security and legal experts to better evaluate underlying technical and security issues. These three groups completed their analyses over the summer and the new information will be brought to the first ITPB meeting of the 2011-12 year.

ITPB Proactive Projects

Kathy Komar and Jerry Kang proactively brought two major issues to ITPB’s attention. ITPB endorsed an effort to improve “technology for students” outreach through (1) a special event for students and UCLA IT-focused administrators called “Pizza & Complaints”. Thanks to the input received through the event and presented to ITPB, the appropriate campus units are working to improve wireless access, online enrollment processes, open/on-line course syllabi, online training through Lynda.com, and online course evaluations. ITPB will continue to sponsor action in these areas in the coming year.

ITPB’s second initiative investigates solutions to create a stronger faculty presence on the web by seeking ways to make the process easier and more accessible. ITPB representatives and Professors Jan Reiff and John Mamer joined ITPB Vice-chair Jerry Kang on a subcommittee to evaluate the value of creating a web service and templates for establishing a digital presence for all interested faculty. A pilot will begin next year.

Plans for 2011-12

The ITPB plans for the new academic year are to address and improve the IT governance process in order to make IT governance more inclusive, accessible, and efficient. We will also continue our research into the implications and advisability of outsourcing UCLA technical services such as student email. We will establish new projects that we believe will serve our core constituencies of faculty and students, focusing on input contributed by our ITPB members. And lastly, we will continue our investment in cyberinfrastructure and cyberlearning, toward innovation, competitiveness, and efficiency in both research and teaching, with the ultimate goal of improving the effectiveness of our IT resources toward the academic and management goals of UCLA.