



GENERAL CHARGE FOR STANDING SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Standing committees are established by Senate Assembly as mandated in Section 4.06 of the Regents' Bylaws. In collaboration with the Faculty Senate Office and SACUA, standing committees advise and consult with the vice presidents of the university on matters within the areas of their respective responsibilities. Senate Assembly standing committees are charged with bringing faculty voice and perspective to a broad range of university activities including policy and procedure. Senate Assembly standing committees shall strive to provide advice and consultation to their respective vice presidents in a timely fashion so that faculty perspectives are considered during the decision-making process.

Information Technology Committee (ITC)

Advisory to: Ravi Pendse, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

Committee Chair: Quentin Stout, Computer Science and Engineering

SPECIFIC CHARGES – 2024-2025

1. AI/ML: UM has a strong start in some aspects of this, but given the explosive growth in this area can we continue to be near the front of the best universities? How will this be funded? Almost all aspects are complicated, evolving, and need tremendous research and computational resources, so we might want to hold a joint meeting with the Senate's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) (this has been mentioned to them).
2. IT at UM: It might be useful for our committee to get an overview of what IT does in terms of resources including advising, software, hardware, connectivity, negotiating pricing for software used mainly by individuals (such as Microsoft 365), etc. Does this vary among our colleges and campuses, do members of the Faculty Senate believe there are needs that have been identified but not met, etc.? How does the faculty give input concerning centralized IT functions?
3. Security and Reliability: There are still questions about what happened last year and whether everything has been restored. There are also worries that the CrowdStrike problems that plagued Delta and others might arise here due to similar software changes. What are the mechanisms that prevent such problems, or rapidly mitigate them? How does the office of the VP IT /CIO help smaller entities (colleges, departments, individuals) prevent such problems?
4. Accessibility: How is the university addressing accessibility? This is being addressed for web pages at the university level, but what about all of the material that faculty put on the web? How will the university help us meet the strict ADA



- requirements that are going to be enforced on all material on the web (with a few exceptions) at all public universities?
5. IT Collaboration outside UM: are there any such collaborations, are any planned or requested? With companies, national labs, other major research universities, etc.? Should UM be a leader in the state in terms of collaboration with other colleges and community colleges? Is cloud computing available to everyone, with suitable support from IT staff in educating people about how to use it?
 6. Committee will also consider emerging issues as raised by ITC members.

Approved by the Senate Assembly on September 23, 2024