

Information Resources Council
Annual Report 2007-08

The Information Resources Council met thirteen times during 2007-2008. Membership of the IRC was as follows: Phylise Barr (Special Programs), Leanne Casale (IR), Ruth Copans (Library), Beth Dupont (IT), Joanne Devine (English, spring), Mike Thomas (2009 (fall)), Ann Henderson (IR), Susan Kress (Chair), Roy Meyer (Biology, fall), Margo Mensing (Studio Art), Justin Siphe (IT), Mike West (Finance and Administration) and Jeremy Wilmot 2008.

With a few exceptions, the IRC meetings were open to the entire community. At the first meeting (9/26/07), the Council discussed the IRC's charter and clarified the IRC's function: to serve as a forum for conversation and recommendations about matters related to infor

of English; Tina Lundin, Senior Financial Analyst, Financial Services and Jeremy Wilmot, '08) to address the email policy. IT will simultaneously work on a security policy. For the future, IRC agreed that policy items will be brought forward for discussion at the beginning of each semester whenever possible.

Email 101, 11/28

Justin Sipher led a session for the community to discuss email in relation to environment, volume, and current historical and statistical data. In particular, the session focused on the growing volume of email, our open policy with respect to access to college listservs, challenges of SPAM, and the question of whether we should continue to bounce back undelivered messages. Dan Forbush, Executive Director of Communications, expressed the hope that Scope Weekly might become the conduit of choice for community messages and thus reduce the volume.

Updates, 12/5

The group discussed updates on all ongoing projects (including information literacy, Digital Assets Management, and email policy.) Justin announced that IT would participate in the Educause annual survey of students (ECAR) to measure student use of technology. Results will offer important comparison data with other institutions. The group also considered and approved continuing membership in NITLE (National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education), though we need to find more effective ways to share the ideas we get from NITLE conferences.

Aquabrowser, 12/19

IRC celebrated the end of the semester with a demonstration of Aquabrowser, a new interface for the library catalogue. Subsequently, after an extensive budget review, the College did determine to purchase Aquabrowser. (No minutes were taken during this demonstration.)

IRC Spring Agenda, 2/5/08

IRC reviewed the ECAR student survey instrument and developed the agenda for the spring meetings.

Student Panel Digital Natives, 2/19

A student panel (organized by Jeremy Wilmot) discussed and debated with attendees a variety of topics including the students' view of essential technology, their relation to print materials, the use of technology for social networking, technology in the classroom, privacy issues, the impact of technology on society, and the general state of technology at Skidmore.

Email Changes, 3/18

With IT staff members, Justin Sipher led a discussion about two proposed changes in email procedures. The first requires annual password resets for Skidmore computer accounts to improve institutional security. The second continues the present policy of bouncing back messages that cannot be delivered.

