

**Subject:** End-Of-Year Report - - Technology Issues Committee

**From:** Richard Harding <rharding@buffalo.edu>

**Date:** Tue, 29 May 2007 11:56:34 -0400

**To:** bscheuer@uupmail.org

**CC:** elandy@uupmail.org

Bill:

1. **\*General\***. The Technology Issues Committee met at the Fall 06, Winter 07, and Spring 07 Delegate Assemblies. Attendance was approximately 10 appointed members and 5 guests at each meeting. The committee focused on its charge to discuss and make recommendations to the President regarding the use and effect of technology on UUP members. Special areas included: educational quality; distance education; access and training issues; academic freedom; and the effect of technology on working conditions and staffing.

2. **\* \*\*Issues\***.

a. Overview of UUP Committees. As committee chair I found it helpful to the members to start the meetings with a summary of work being done by other UUP standing and ad hoc committees. This information was boiled down from the committee chairs meetings held on the Thursday evenings prior to the DA. I found that our committee members needed this background information to understand how the Technology Issues Committee fits into the overall mission of UUP and to also realize that there are numerous UUP committees that are looking at issues that have a technology component.

b. Hard Drive Security. Many member computers are exchanged or surplused each year without their hard drives being properly purged. Often memory components of member computers are exchanged with the same deficiency. This presents security concerns as often sensitive information, including personal data, from being compromised. Member education in this area is needed. The committee feels this is an overlooked area that needs attention both by our members and management. I reported this matter at the committee chairs meeting at the Spring 07 DA and asked that they discuss it with their committees.

c. Inadequate Funding for New and On-going Initiatives. This seems to be a system-wide problem. Shortages exist in staff funding; band width; and faculty support. Coupled with this is a steady increase in on-line courses at several colleges which requires faculty and staff participation at all hours of the day and night. Management continues to embrace new programs with "volunteers" rather than adequate additional resourcing. Our members may be part of the problem by agreeing to work outside of their job descriptions without additional compensation or work load adjustment. The committee agrees that better detailed resource planning must be included as management and our members embrace and implement new technologies into every aspect of the SUNY community.

d. Outsourcing. On-line teaching and its technical support is leading toward outsourcing much of this technology either off-campus or outside our bargaining unit. The committee members feel this trend is not UUP member friendly. There is on-line course outsourcing at Canton; ResNet is being used with no reported problems. Distance learning is also being outsourced at many campuses but the outsourcing is to a SUNY unit so this has no impact on SUNY system jobs. The committee feels that outsourcing needs to be constantly monitored.

e. Open Access to Scholarly Literature. The committee is staffing a proposal by David Solomonoff concerning encouraging faculty to use open sources as their publication medium. This initiative has been discussed at all 3 DA committee meetings and is on the agenda for the Fall 07 DA. A draft resolution has been provided to Eileen Landy for comment by NYSUT legal. Comment is also being sought from the SUNY Office of Library and Information Services. This resolution is wrought with many questions which need clarification prior to bring it out of committee.

f. On Call Issues. On call issues continue to be a tech issue. The Microsoft VISTA product being installed on many campuses will put even more demands

on our members. In addition to the IT Node on call issues, members also reported there are issues in several libraries. Committee members will check on the status of VISTA installations on their campuses and report back at the Fall 07 DA. The 24/7 on call issues will continue to be discussed with a focus on how they affect our membership.

3. **\*Summary\***. The committee has had excellent meetings with participation by all attending members. Members seem to understand the scope of the committee charge and stay within that charge. The hard drive security issue (see 2b above) is alarming and may warrant recommendations to our members from UUP Central on steps they can take to protect themselves when turning in computers and steps they can take to protect other members from potential identity theft.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Harding  
Chair, Technology Issues Committee