

Instructional Support Committee (ISC) Annual Report 2006-07

July 5, 2007

R. Cecilia Knight, Chair

Overview

This past year the ISC focused on supporting the Expanding Knowledge Initiative (EKI) in addition to the usual support for classroom initiatives, local excursions, and faculty development. The shape that support for the EKI will take as we go forward continues to emerge. ISC has tried to remain flexible and to support experimentation, developing new guidelines as projects arise that challenge the usual categories into which we divide funding. There are many questions to explore as we proceed in this new direction. The curricular development funding guidelines at http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/dean/supfac/oncampusopportunities/curric_dev/curric_dev_projects/ have changed several times this year to reflect new funding categories. Note particularly the section on “Interdisciplinary Curricular Development Related to the Expanding Knowledge Initiative.”

The College’s copyright policy received a thorough overhaul by a taskforce that included ISC members and other interested parties. After provisional approval by President Osgood, the College attorney, and ISC, the policy was presented to the faculty and posted as the working policy for the College in May <<http://www.lib.grinnell.edu/research/copyright.pdf>>. Broader discussion and possible refinement of the policy will take place next fall, and we will begin educational efforts necessary for implementing the policy.

Working through NITLE with other liberal arts colleges, we began planning for a Liberal Arts Scholarly Repository (LASR). This project uses DSpace to host, in digital form, scholarly projects by Grinnell faculty members and students.

The ISC provided input to Information Technology Services on enhancements and adjustments to Pioneerweb, our course management and portal system.

Richard Fyffe, the new Library Director joined the campus and the committee. Library-related issues included the new Science Library and space concerns for Burling. The ISC provided Input on the reconfiguration of Burling 1st floor and advised on policies for reserves and e-reserves. The library joined Portico, a digital archive service, with the endorsement of ISC.

ITS continued to increase wireless access, making it available in most campus facilities. New construction includes wireless capabilities, and older buildings are being retrofitted with wireless access points as possible.

Facilities

The Joseph Rosenfield Center opened in the fall of 2006, providing a complement of classrooms with a standard setup for computers, projection and AV. Similar set-ups will be installed in the new science classrooms.

ISC recommended upgrading chairs in ARH, replacing the creaky wooden tablet-arm chairs with quieter chairs. Facilities Management completed this project, with the exception of one room, early in the summer of 2007.

The new Kistle Science Library opened in June 2007. Preparations for its opening required ISC involvement in the planning to advise on which call numbers and subject areas to move into the new facility.

The ISC also consulted on a new arrangement for the Reference Area in Burling. Construction is taking place over the summer of 2007.

The Creative Computing Lab (CCL) and the Training Lab, both located in the Forum, opened in the fall. The CTS staff and librarians organized three faculty “happy hours” to advertise and familiarize faculty with the new spaces. In addition, they held a series of Thursday creative computing workshops on a variety of topics.

Strategic Plan

Support for the EKI – the primary academic component of the College’s Strategic Plan – took a variety of forms. As we proceed we may settle on models for interdisciplinary curricular development that we find most effective. For now we are still casting a broad net and experimenting.

Faculty Luncheons: The ISC supported a series of faculty interdisciplinary common grounds lunches on topics including Teaching Writing, Teaching from the Source, Genocide and Holocaust Studies, Peace Studies, Policy Studies, Wellness, Sustainable Energy, Museums and Other Curated Spaces, Conceptions of Space and Place, Technology Studies, Middle East Studies, Visualizing Multi-variate Data, Early Modern Studies, Population Growth and Control; and Interdisciplinary Arts.

The ISC funded several faculty members for travel to conferences on interdisciplinarity and conferences related to curricular development for future interdisciplinary courses.

The ISC developed guidelines for curricular development stipends and reimbursement for course development expenses related to the EKI. The first applicants received funding in the Spring of 2007.

Technology

Wireless access has expanded in existing buildings and will be a standard feature in all new construction.

ITS moved into the Forum over the summer of 2006

The Creative Computing Lab opened in fall 2006 and policies for use were drafted.

The Forum Training Lab opened in fall 2006 and policies for use were drafted.

Wireless network reconfiguration to further security was implemented.

We are experimenting with GoPrint, a program that allows print-jobs to be more closely monitored.

Support for Faculty Development: Workshops and Individual Faculty Support

The ISC continued the trend to encourage reimbursement for expenses rather than stipends for faculty curricular development efforts.

We supported twelve off-campus course-related trips, paying for travel, meals, admissions, and incidental expenses.

We continued supporting reimbursement for language- and technology-related summer studies for faculty when directly related to curricular projects.

Other faculty development projects supported by the ISC included:

The Committee to Foster Foreign Language Study (CFFLS)

The Science Teaching and Learning Group (STaLG)

The Early Career Faculty Group

Faculty to Faculty Tutorials

Summer Workshops between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007

- *Interdisciplinary Teaching* – 2 co-leaders and 7 other participants, 2006
- *Create a Website in Three Days*: CTS leaders and 3 participants receiving stipends, 2006
- *International Students and Global Understanding* (American Council on Education grant and ISC) — 2 co-leaders and 7 other participants, 2007
- *Teaching Writing Through Revision* — 2 co-leaders and 5 other participants, 2007
- *Teaching With Images Using ARTstor* — 2 Grinnell co-leaders, 1 external (ARTstor) co-leader, 14 other Grinnell participants, and 4 external participants (Coe and Simpson Colleges), 2007
- *Writing & Oral Communication for Tutorial Instructors* — 1 leader and 10 other participants, 2007
- *Advising & Mentoring* (Lilly) — 1 leader and 4 other participants, 2007
- *(Re-)Envisioning Technology Studies* — 1 leader and 4 other participants, 2007
- *What is a Liberal Arts Education in the Twenty-First Century?* (Lilly) -- 1 leader and 12 other participants, 2007
- *Portfolio Pilot Project* — 1 leader and 6 other participants, 2007
- *Policy Studies* — 1 leader and 16 other participants, 2007

E-Reserves

Over the summer of 2006, the Dean's office, with input from the ISC, took steps to improve College compliance with copyright guidelines for digital and print materials. This had a major impact on faculty preparations for courses, Academic Support Assistant workflows, and Library operations for the 2006-2007 year. Faculty were pushed to plan farther ahead and consider the copyright implications of supplemental readings they were providing for their students. The budgetary impacts included \$50,000+ in copyright fees and many additional hours of work for library staff members.

Copyright Policy Development

The changes in teaching practices including the use of electronic course reserves (e-reserves) inspired a fresh look at our copyright guidelines. A taskforce including ISC representatives developed a new set of guidelines to educate the campus about compliance with copyright law while taking advantage of the rights that educators have under the law. The guidelines were expanded to address individual rights and responsibilities in relation to scholarly work as well. The new policy is posted at <http://www.lib.grinnell.edu/research/copyright.pdf>, and efforts will be made during the 2007-2008 academic year to educate the campus community about their rights and responsibilities under the new policy.

Portico

The Grinnell College Libraries are a founding member of the Portico Group which is an initiative to provide archival support for the digital publishing community in order to assure our long-term access to content purchased in electronic formats.