## University Faculty Senate Resolution on Information Technology

There is a growing concern about the condition and operations of Information Technology (IT) \* across the university learning environment, with issues ranging from conditions experienced in the classroom and on-line, to interim and long-range strategic IT planning. The University Faculty Senate resolves that its Academic Policies Committee negotiate a forum and process by which faculty and administration can work together more effectively to address the following question: How do we make the technology in the university best serve the students, faculty and learning environment? This plan is conceived in tandem with the APC's continuing investigation of and recommendations for improved integration of academic and facilities planning, and the UFS further believes that this process should be initiated in the immediate future to support the scheduled move of NSSR from 65 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 79 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Primary concerns include: Decisions regarding equipment and interactivity are currently made without input from faculty – including both your average and knowledgeable users. IT infrastructure and so-called "smart rooms" are not functioning well from day to day. The protocol of the AV/IT department can cause disruptions, by interrupting class time to perform maintenance without regard for instructors or students. To address these issues, several divisions have established independent satellite AV support, with valuable impact. However, where this may temporarily relieve local conditions, it has underscored that the impact of AV/IT on the classroom is a matter that must be addressed as a university. If the strategic vision of the university is centered on enhancing interdivisional collaboration, we must not only have the spaces that support such collaborations – *the spaces and systems must work well*.

A university-wide dialogue on IT would address the following objectives and concerns:

**Macro planning issues**: participation - tapping the tacit knowledge base in faculty to support interim needs and long-range university vision

Technology needs-based assessment across all departments and divisions

Increased faculty input concerning important decisions, such as installed software, codecs, region-codings, and other compatibility issues

What is the outreach that exists around IT – is there current outreach to faculty to improve conditions? Faculty support and training

An interim strategy for improving IT throughout physical and virtual university facilities.

What is the future of IT – the long term plan – as envisioned in the new building at 65 5<sup>th</sup> Ave? Are there ways to achieve our IT goals more efficiently and at less cost to the university?

Micro planning issues: service logistics - improving the immediate learning environment

Site specific problems (e.g., wifi failure, projector disconnections, slow or no maintenance, baroque infrastructure and ad-hoc solutions)
Unclear troubleshooting options

Increased availability of, and access to, equipment Improved equipment functionality and maintenance

The systemic dependence on AV (some of the staff are very helpful, but a class should not depend on

someone remembering to unlock the audio cabinet, or bring the remote control)
Distance learning, online courses, and other "scaleable" enterprises are currently hamstrung by DRM, IP and copyright policies. More faculty and grad-student input could avoid many of the current problems which make teaching online – within the New School's technical system – a non-starter for those with a serious stake in digital learning.

Re-Draft of Amended IT Resolution: Approved 11.7.06

<sup>\*</sup> IT is seen here to include both AV and IT matters.