

Committee on Computer Resources
2008-2009 Annual Report

Golden, K	Chairperson
Goldhammer, E	Secretary
Chang, J	
Flamholz, A	
Kolios, A	
Manga, D	
Wallach, P	
Sherman, G	President's Designee

The committee meet several times during the 2008-2009 academic year.

The following is a summary of the key topics addressed:

- 1) George Sherman reported on our two systems of electronic mail 1: the e-mail system, and 2: the QCC dialogue. George reported that people had the option of opting out of the QCC dialogue system by sending an e-mail to him or Ralph Romanelli. We had asked if there could be a visual difference in noting one system from the other, (i.e. change of color). George reported that this was not possible.
- 2) Professor Ed Hanssen, from the Business department reported about e-portfolio. The number of students utilizing the system has increased from 200 a year ago, to 2,200 currently. He described e-portfolio as a Facebook-like set-up, but academic in its orientation. Results of a questionnaire which had been administered to business students were examined. These students indicated an interest in e-portfolio, and it is credited for enabling a higher student retention rate.

QCC's e-portfolio license carries through to June of 2010. It is currently being funded by a Perkins Grant, and after the afore-mentioned date, there will be need for a new source of funding.
- 3) Spring semester 2009 brought Dave Moretti (our webmaster) to report on Blackboard.

A committee member brought up the fact that Blackboard is slow-too slow to use efficaciously in the classroom. In fact, slower than the previous version of it had been. Other members of committee who use Blackboard agreed. Discussion followed about how to pursue a remedy. Dave Moretti reported that complaints are universal. The system is sometimes up, and sometimes down for a week or more at a time. There is a bug in the system, usually hidden, but when there is high volume, it emerges as malfunction. There is a concern of confidence in Blackboard, or in CUNY's management of this system. Once CUNY contracts for the Blackboard system, each campus pays in, and there is no opt-out option for

any individual campus. Complaints should be reported to the CUNY helpdesk-
Kraff Valchin

As chair of this committee I was also asked to attend the student technology fee and web site committee. I attended many meeting except when I had conflict with classes. When these conflicts I polled my committee and most often there was a representative from computer resource at these meetings.

Eva Goldhammer served as secretary for the committee and did a good job.

I never meet the student assigned to our committee.

Most of our committee meeting were scheduled during club hours. It was impossible for every member of the committee to be able to attend every meeting, someone always had a scheduling conflict, a class, a department meeting, a search committee etc. As small part of the committee there was much time put into e-mailing all members, finding availability, scheduling a room, and getting and returning the key to the meeting room.