The Faculty Senate Technology Policy Committee would like to thank the University's CIO, Kevin Borek and his senior staff. Without their willingness to participate in open and frank discussions, the work of this committee would not have been possible. We would also like to congratulate Marilyn T Smith on her retirement from the University and thank her for her years of service and work with this committee.

Major Committee topics: Issue with Degree Requirements disappearing from DegreeWorks, faculty concerns about BYOD in new and remodeled classrooms, Site licenses for software, Replacement of Obsolete Computer Program, Online Teaching Options, Zoom License, Google Products, Student Laptop Policy, Faculty Database,

Summary of briefings for the above topics:

- Issue with Degree Requirements Disappearing from DegreeWorks: There were some students who had degree requirements disappear from their Degree Audit on DegreeWorks. These are manually updated and sometimes there are mistakes. In this case the code was accidentally commented out. There are now cross checks in place and the ability to verify with actual student audits. There will also be increased communication with advisors after degree audits. If departments find an issue and need to send feedback about DegreeWorks they can email degaudit@gmu.edu.

- Faculty Concerns about BYOD in classrooms: There is a concern about the increased demand for Bring Your Own Devices in the newly remodeled and newly built classrooms. There is mixed feedback about this from faculty, largely based on the accessibility of devices. Faculty are always able to preview the classrooms before the semester begins and there are trainings for the classroom technology. Robinson will be BYOD for the new classrooms, there will be a podium in the room. Peterson has wireless linking capabilities. There was a question about Mac converters in the rooms but they get stolen so it is best for faculty to have their own. Sterns Center has videos online explaining the spaces and people are willing to meet with faculty members in the space (even during the semester).

- Site Licenses for Software: Some site licenses are clearly defined like Office and Adobe. It used to be that programs would have university wide site licenses but now the norm is a one for one model so it is important to track actual usage so that we do not overpay. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not agree to many of the terms and conditions in free versions of software so that increases the challenges for using those in a University setting.
Replacement of Obsolete Computer Program: ITS is moving away from the previous ETF (Equipment Trust Fund) model where individual faculty computers were paid for out of the fund. The move uses ETF money to fund bigger equipment needs and use the money traditionally used for those things to the individual faculty PC needs. This will allow for more flexibility for faculty in their individual computers since they will not be limited by ETF requirements.

Online Teaching Options: The university has license for Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, Webex, Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

Zoom License: With the transition to online teaching due to the pandemic, there were a large number of faculty requests to use Zoom instead of Webex. There were complaints of service issues with Webex. Update: Webex is now being phased out and there is a faculty Zoom license ready for use starting Summer 2020.

Google Products: We do not have a license for Google products. There are compliance issues with the State restrictions and Google terms of service. There are no plans for Google Services. Faculty should not use commercial software without university approval since there need to be agreements to protect user data, limit mining and restrict where data travels globally.

Student Laptop Policy: This topic has been discussed previously in this committee and around the university. With the pandemic there are resources available to students who need aid in getting the technology needed for their courses. Individual faculty may decide what technology is required for their course. It should be posted on the syllabus for the course so that students know what is required.

Renewal Promotion Tenure Database: This is where people will be uploading their Renewal, Promotion and Tenure materials. There were some complications but it seems as though the system is now running well. Outside vendors have fixed most issues and there seems to be no problem with capacity.