

To: Executive Committee of Academic Senate

From: Academic Information Services Advisory Committee (AISAC)

Date: 13 December 2007

Re: Update on AISAC Fall 2007 Activity

AISAC

The Academic Senate has charged the Academic Information Services Advisory Committee (AISAC) with making recommendations regarding collections, policies and services of AIS; to support and foster faculty and student research, especially the use of resources in the library, archives, and academic computing. AISAC acts in a liaison capacity to represent the faculty by making recommendations to the Academic Senate. The Committee is particularly interested in questions, suggestions or concerns regarding the information, resources, instructional and interpretative consulting services provided by AIS to support the teaching, research and outreach missions of the University.

Fall 2007 Activity

During its first and second organizational meetings on 7 and 21 September, AISAC decided upon two goals for the 2007-2008 academic year: first, to continue to assist Northern instructors and classes running pilot tests of SAKAI, an open-source course management system; and second, to assist AIS Dean Walch with library renovation planning.

Pursuant to the first goal, AISAC has met with the leader of the student team piloting SAKAI in a 400-level CIS course. Members answered questions and, upon request, provided the results of AISAC's 2006-2007 online technology survey to help the team take into consideration faculty needs re: course management software.

AISAC has spent most of its time this semester working on the second goal. Dean Walch first discussed with the committee the work that the five AIS units have engaged in concerning the needs of what she has dubbed "the library of the 21st century." Members then took part in a library renovation webinar, which confirmed that Northern is on track in its planning, and read articles from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* to sample the directions that other university libraries have been taking. The committee next created a new sub-goal: to compile the opinions of faculty on the following question: what constitutes a library (or, more fully, what constitutes the Learning Resources Center and the services within it) both today and in the future for Northern's campus? Faculty feedback will be added to the pool of ideas already generated within AIS. To begin answering this question, committee members compiled a detailed list of ideas for LARC (pronounced *lark*), the working title for Northern's library of the future, and took that list back to their respective departments for feedback.

Gathering feedback both within members' departments and across campus is scheduled for Winter 2008.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Burr, Chair