Information Technology Council Meeting

Monday, September 28, 2026
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Glass Hall 0485

Minutes

Members' Present: Jeff Coiner (Chair), Greg Rainwater (Deputy Chair), CJ Collins (Remote), Tucker Starkey, Mary Bohlen, Angela Barker, Keri Elrod (Remote), William Hader, Ian Alaimo, Brad Davidson (Remote), Brian Hayes, Breno Viani, and Drew Marcum.

Also present: Nicole Muse, Dr. Mitzi Kirkland-Ives, Dr. Deborah Larson, Nathan Hartzler and Michelle Harvey

1. Welcome — Jeff Coiner
    - Jeff Coiner called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm and welcomed members and guests. The Council briefly discussed the previous meeting minutes. No questions or comments were raised, and the Council proceeded with the scheduled Innovation Funding presentations.
    - Approved minutes from 09.03.2026
    - Nicole to post the final minutes on the IT Council website
2. Innovation Funding Presentations — All

    All presentations during this meeting were submitted by the Reynolds College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (RCASH). Three presenters provided presentations, with Angela Barker presenting information on behalf of Dr. Micheal Kyle who was unable to attend.

    1. Department of Art and Design: **Dr. Mitzi Kirkland-Ives**

        Dr. Mitzi Kirkland presented a request for audio equipment to support the Visual Arts Department's growing emphasis on interactive new media, mixed media, sculptural installations, computer animation, video game development, virtual reality, and user experience design. Current equipment is inadequate, resulting in poor audio quality and occasional equipment failures during student exhibitions.

        - Benefits students in:
            - MFA Visual Studies
            - BFA Art (Computer Animation, Sculpture)
            - BS Electronic Arts

        The equipment would be portable and could be used in multiple gallery locations and potentially for future campus installations. Program coordinators and gallery personnel would oversee storage, checkout, and use of the equipment.

    2. Department of Communication, Media, Journalism and Film: **Dr. Deborah Larson & Nathan Hartzler**

        Representatives from the Communication, Media, Journalism and Film Department presented a proposal to create a purpose-built cinema classroom in Craig Hall featuring Dolby Atmos surround sound and 3D viewing capabilities.

- Would establish a high-quality cinema space unavailable elsewhere on campus.
- Supports coursework in film studies, production, and media education.
- Aligns with Dolby Atmos Education Partner opportunities, potentially allowing students to earn industry-recognized certifications.
- Intended as a campus-wide resource for screenings, speaker events, alumni presentations, and student organizations.
- Estimated project cost approximately $150,000–$160,000 total, with Innovation Funding request focused on AV/technology components.
- The goal would be to complete the project for Fall 2027, subject to construction and scheduling.

3. School of Criminology & Criminal Justice: **Dr. Michael Kyle**

   Angela presented information on behalf of Dr. Kyle regarding a request for a visual fingerprint scanner for the Forensic Science program.

   The request is intended to move students from traditional fingerprinting technology to a newer visual scanning system and provide additional employment-related skills. The request was approximately $1,700.

   - Replaces traditional fingerprinting processes with modern digital methods.
   - Supports student career preparation and training aligned with industry standards.
   - Enhances forensic science curriculum and CSI summer camp activities.
   - Potential alignment with federal compliance and certification-related opportunities.

   The Council asked for additional information regarding the FBI certifications referenced in the proposal, including how the certification would work and what credentials or industry benefits students could receive. Angela agreed to follow up with Dr. Kyle and provide additional information.

4. Department of Theatre & Dance: **Michelle Harvey**

   Michelle Harvey, Department of Theatre and Dance, presented a request for two HTC Vive Focus Vision virtual reality headsets and a high-performance computer. Total request is approximately $6,900.

   The equipment would allow students, designers, directors, and actors to explore theatrical designs in a virtual environment before construction begins. Students would be able to evaluate spatial relationships, identify design issues, collaborate with directors, and make changes before materials and labor are committed. The BFA Design Technology and Stage Management program currently has approximately 31 students, all of whom would be introduced to the technology through required coursework. Additional courses, acting and theatre students, dance students, and education students could also benefit. The estimated potential impact was approximately 30–75 students, or more than 100 when including actors and other users.

3. Discussion on Presentations for Innovation Funding All

Jeff Coiner noted that the total amount of the projects currently under consideration was approximately **$275,536**, which closely matched the amount of funding available. He also noted that project costs could fluctuate because some requests had been submitted several months earlier.

The Council discussed whether IT personnel had concerns about supporting or implementing the proposed technologies. Members indicated that the proposals had generally been reviewed and vetted.

The Council also discussed the importance of considering ongoing staffing and technical support when evaluating future technology proposals, particularly as the number of VR and other specialized technologies increases. Members noted that future proposals may benefit from greater involvement from college-level IT personnel before submission.

The Council had questions regarding the proposed AR/AI/VR equipment for the School of Accountancy, particularly whether the proposed tablet would have sufficient capability to operate the VR software. Members discussed the possibility of obtaining a test unit or otherwise confirming the technology requirements before purchasing the full classroom setup.

Motions and Votes

A motion was made to:

1. Table the Pendleton School of Accountancy VR proposal pending additional information and technical review.
2. Approve all other Innovation Funding proposals by unanimous consent.

Moved by: Mary Bohlen
Seconded by: Tucker Starkey
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Approved Funding Projects:

- School of Construction, Design & Project Management display/projector initiative
- IT & Cybersecurity instructional equipment
- Physical Therapy telemetry monitoring system
- Occupational Therapy rehabilitation technology
- Laptop kiosk pilot project
- RCASH innovation proposals presented during the meeting

Future Innovation Funding
The Council discussed the value of having funded projects return in the future to share outcomes, successes, challenges, and lessons learned. Jeff Coiner confirmed that funding has been set aside in the current year's budget to continue the Innovation Funding program in the spring.

4. Next meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2026 All

- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- Cheek Hall, room 150C

The members of the IT Council did not have any other business to discuss.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.