MEMO:

To: Faculty Senate
From: ATAC
Re: Annual Report
Date: 4/13/09

ATAC met for the final time this academic year on April 6. We decided to send this unsolicited report to the Senate, in order to assist in dissemination of information about academic computing.

1. Google Recommendations:
   IT should begin making announcements about the migration to Google as soon as possible so that faculty are not caught off guard. FAQs have already been widely distributed.

   Faculty Blog be included on the Start Page. The earlier attempt at the blog became moot once the decision to move to Google was made.

   Provide Calendar options so users can subscribe to the calendars that are of interest/use to them. For example, one might subscribe to Ferguson Center, but not Football, or Luter School but not Library calendars.

2. Blackboard Issues:
   Sufficient lead time before implementing Blackboard 9 is critical. We recommend that for a Fall implementation, the upgrade should be available by July 1 and for a Spring implementation, the upgrade should be available by Dec.1.

   Organize faculty support community for Blackboard Building Blocks. There are many additional features that can be added on to Blackboard. ATAC would like to facilitate a faculty user/support group to identify useful building blocks and model how to incorporate them into courses. We would like to make information about building blocks available soon so faculty could experiment with them over the summer and IT could ensure the add-ons meet our security requirements.

   Training: We recommend continued training before each semester begins.

3. Other:
   ATAC members are participating in the experimental use of tablets PCs in the classroom and for submission and grading of assignments.

   General Effectiveness: The members agreed that ATAC has been effective in providing input and support for Instructional Technology Services and serving as a contact point for faculty technology issues.