**Summary of the main topics addressed by the Senate IT Committee
during the 2007-2008 Academic Year**

Review of IT at the University of Tennessee:
With the endorsement of the full UTK Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate IT committee sent a letter to the system and university administration recommending that a stable reporting structure for OIT be established before December 1 and that the reporting structure be changed to the Knoxville Campus.

Where do we stand with respect to the use of Social Security Numbers?
The IT committee asked for and received updates on the status of SSNs throughout the year. The university has taken some very significant steps to minimize exposure to SSN, modifying a significant number of databases, screens and reports to remove the SSN where it is not required.
Examples:

- From IRIS a unit now only receives the SSN's of employees of that unit, instead of a collective table of all university employees at the site.
- Every current UTK student now has an assigned ID number, which is used in the majority of reports/displays (such as Class Rosters) within the Student Information System.
- Effort has been made to ensure all network traffic passing SSNs (and other sensitive data) is using encrypted protocols.
- The SSN is still significant to maintain referential integrity, as individuals become associated with UT in a variety of ways. Work continues to minimize its exposure in the variety of interfaces with other areas (IRS, transfer institutions, state agencies, etc).
- Because there are students who work and employees who take classes, there can still be collisions of ID numbers that are not SSN. Therefore, the eventual goal is to have an identity management system that provides unique ID numbers.
- Parking Services uses licenses plates to register tickets, license number to access DMV, and obtains SSN to correlate with our systems as a means of control/enforcement. They have agreed to move archival tickets to a non-networked computer and to purge records that are no longer required.

Student Information System:
The IT committee discussed the importance of collecting input from faculty and staff users of the SIS, so that their concerns can be addressed before the roll-out of the Banner system. A meeting with the person heading Banner the project was scheduled twice, but always had to be canceled due to administrative changes. The committee was never officially asked to provide input. OIT members responded to faculty concerns about the current system and informed the committee about changes that were implemented. Examples of positive actions taken with input from the IT committee include:

- Some of our Graduate Admissions reporting was modified allow colleges to pull their Graduate applicants to a spreadsheet from the web.
- Online requests were implemented to produce reports of:
  - Enrolled Students by Advisor

- Undergraduate Enrolled Students by Major (Primary Program, Primary Major)
- Graduate Enrolled Students by Major (Primary Program, Primary Major) (cannot yet print this report)

These transactions are enforcing universal or college level authorization using the Academic History data level security for a user.

Streamlining Password changes:
The IT committee discussed how to streamline required password changes for multiple systems on campus (NetID, Tmail, Unix) and made recommendations to OIT.

Accessing library resources away from campus:
The committee asked for better instructions for faculty on how to access library resources away from campus.

How to better address faculty IT concerns:
Several members of OIT have been participating in the committee meetings and they have been very helpful in solving many problems and inconveniences brought forward by faculty members. Committee members ask senators and faculty to view the IT committee as a gateway to bring forward requests and concerns concerning IT. This will result in a more efficient way addressing these concerns, because communications go to ALL the relevant offices concerned with IT.

The IT committee also invites Jesse Poore, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, to attend Faculty Senate and IT committee meetings.