CAS Technology/Computer Committee Fall 2018 Report (David Rogers, Chair (Jim Cavendish is reporting)

The CAS Technology Committee has completed its review of the Faculty/Staff Needs Survey sent out earlier this year. We found that 72% of those responding are satisfied with IT resources, but that there exist groups of faculty who have issues accessing software and hardware needed to be productive. A major structural deficiency identified is that there is no formal process for groups of faculty (including Departments or research centers) to request classroom upgrades or software packages that carry continuing licensing cost commitments. A limited number of older computers are available through IT, but there is also no formal process for replacing aging faculty computing resources, resulting in uneven distribution of up-to-date hardware. 87% of respondents use a USF-owned computer, but 84 of 164 noted their computers were over 5 years old. Through discussions with IT, we arrived at a consensus that future classroom technology needs should emphasize provisioning power outlets for student laptops. In the long-term, we should also consider the possibility of a CAS-level policy requiring undergraduates to own laptops. We also addressed software access by meeting with USF IT services. USF-Licensed software can be obtained by filling out a form at software.usf.edu. Some license policies (like Adobe) may end up requiring individual faculty subscription costs for which we should create a university-level payment mechanism for those faculty with a valid business needs justification.