

CAS Technology/Computer Committee Spring 2019 Report

David M. Rogers, 2018-19 Chair

What do we do when faced with uncertainty? I think the solution is to honestly evaluate ourselves and our situation and then brainstorm to construct new frameworks that fit our current needs and environment. Positive change happens when we communicate those ideas with the goal of becoming more engaged and connected. As academics, experimentation and improvement is what we do.

The CAS Technology Committee evaluated technology needs last year and found *licensing of software/web services* and *hardware access* are two key issues affecting a significant number of our faculty, staff, and graduate students. There was much brainstorming about these two areas. Since IT had already done such a great job negotiating key licenses ([check them out; compassionate staff help navigate the install/run process](#)), we focused on CAS's aging roster of workstation computers. The committee explored lots of avenues and came to believe that the most viable, fair, and comprehensive solution is to set a clear policy for computer replacement at the Departmental level. Comparing current Departmental practices and understanding common issues allowed us to formulate a formal system for replacing out of date computer hardware. Since it's an experiment, this committee is offering these as guidelines with the expectation that they will continue to evolve with trial and communication. We also struck up new channels for communicating IT-related resources: talking about [IT's up-to-date list of resources](#) with Department staff and opening discussions between [library data archival services](#) and the [Office of Research and Innovation](#).

When I think about ways to improve USF, CAS committee work now ranks highly on my list of transformative engines. Although it often feels like we can't do much, our ideas are the fuel that makes this University run. There is no shortage of that fuel, only a few hindrances to open communication that we need to consciously remove. The Tech. Committee has been able to accomplish a lot with only a few extra hours of effort each month. I would definitely recommend volunteering for chair to all of my colleagues who enjoy communicating and experimenting with new ideas.