

3 May 2004
Report of the Committee of the Budget
To The ECU Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate Budget Committee met on 22 April 2004. The Committee's last guests of this academic year were Mr. James Keith, Director, Information Technology and Delivery Systems, and Ms. Jean Marlow, ITDS Technology Specialist.

Mr. Keith provided an overview of ITDS budget cuts since 2001-2002, which total almost \$500,000. An additional \$300,000 was lost in 2001-2002 from the General Fund that had been used for networking upgrades. However, \$300,000 is now received from the CPE in Action Agenda Trust funds. These funds are restricted to uses that "increase the effective use of information technology for instructional purposes only." He also noted that as late as 1990-1991, the predecessor unit of ITDS was generating between \$500,000 to \$700,000 annually in fees collected from students making telephone calls from residence halls. Cell phones have caused this money to completely dry up. Overall, the ITDS unit is funded at about \$9 million less than the average for ECU's benchmark institutions.

Despite this grim picture, ITDS continues to upgrade and expand IT services to students, faculty, and staff on the main ECU campus and at branches. Mr. Keith emphasized the importance of the Action Agenda funds that are helping establish "smart" classrooms and upgrade email servers. Eighteen new smart classrooms were established this year, which brings the total to about 25. Other smart classrooms have been established by various colleges. Mr. Keith stated that his goal is to continue to offer reasonably priced voice-data-video access to students in residence halls. The fee charged students is calculated to cover costs and not make a profit. Rates are reasonable, less than \$150 per academic year.

Several Committee members complimented Mr. Keith for the responsiveness of ITDS to student and faculty information technology needs. Appreciation was also expressed for his commitment to providing quality IT services and his efforts to maintain costs in residence halls and not increase financial stress on students by trying to profit from voice-data-video access fees.

I want to conclude by thanking all the members of this Committee for their contributions this past academic year. It was a delightful Committee to serve on because of their involvement and commitment. Thank you Ken Johnston and Senators Cook, Fenton, Johnson, Jones, Rainey, Sexton, and Wolfe.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Siegel
Chair, Faculty Senate Budget Committee