From: University of Idaho Information Technology Committee; Ben Hunter, Chair 2010-2011

Date: March 23, 2011

RE: ITS budget reduction recommendations

University of Idaho Information Technology Services (ITS) is expected to both provide adequate Internet bandwidth to satisfy ever-increasing demand and to offer a substantial number of services to the campus community. The Information Technology Committee understands that either increasing funding to ITS or decreasing costs within ITS will be necessary to sustain this level of service. In the current fiscal climate, this funding situation is not likely to improve. Furthermore, increases in student fees are not currently a viable option.

In response to this situation, the Information Technology Committee recommends that the following steps be taken by ITS as necessary in order to decrease expenditures. These steps are listed in the order of the committee’s preference:

1. Cancel the Microsoft student license. The savings from such a move would be substantial, and current usage of licensed software by students does not justify the price being paid. This would not affect the faculty and staff license, and by extension would not affect the licensed software in the computer labs.
2. Though a cap on individual Internet bandwidth usage would be ideal, we understand that the capacity to implement such a policy does not currently exist. Therefore, the committee endorses Dave Lien’s proposed plan to hire a student to manually monitor weekly usage and then personally contact heavy users in an attempt to curb their use. While this idea is untested, it would be significantly easier and less expensive than the alternative and warrants a trial. If it does not prove to be effective, the committee recommends re-examining the possibility of implementing an individual internet bandwidth usage cap.
3. Close selected computing labs on campus. Usage statistics are a good place to start in determining candidates for closure, but we recommend that the Information Technology Committee be used by ITS to help in this decision making process.

Addendum: October 13, 2011

From: University of Idaho Information Technology Committee; Lori Eveleth-Baker, Chair 2011-12

1. Recommend to the Senate to close ITS computer labs in the residence halls (Tower, Wallace, McConnell, Targhee) with 42 computer stations and printers. This would be implemented in summer of 2012.