A number of meetings have occurred with the Tech Committee and the Director of ITS, Karlis Kaugers, and with Dean of the Library, Karim Broughida. The process by which the University acquires new software and hardware systems that affect faculty have been discussed. There is general agreement that the following items should be implemented:

Information on large purchases at the University (greater than $25K) and initiatives that can directly or indirectly affect Faculty will be communicated to the Faculty Senate Tech committee on a monthly basis for in-depth discussion and possible referral to the faculty senate as a whole.

The Faculty Senate Technology committee will determine if each of these items has a significant impact on the faculty. If items do appear to have a significant impact, the committee will gather additional information through the faculty membership on the relevant committees, review of timelines for approval and implementation, and participation in the information technology review process. This process will focus on the user interface and the operation of such systems within a university setting. This information will then be communicated to the full faculty senate on a regular basis. Feedback from the Tech Committee on proposed systems will be responded to promptly by the parties responsible for final approval of such acquisitions.

Communication mechanisms will be developed between ITS, the Faculty Senate and the URI Administration to make this entire process work efficiently. For example, a faculty residency at ITS from relevant research programs such as Computer Engineering or Computer Science may be one method for facilitating faculty involvement in the planning process. A representative from ITS will also meet with the Tech Committee at periodic intervals during the year to discuss ongoing projects and seek faculty input.