Continuing the discussion from previous meetings, James reminded the committee that we were working on a broad strategy and that last time we had decided on a figure of ~$50,000 covering ~60 computers per year for staff. The Committee then went on to discuss Smart Classroom upkeep. James stated that the last two rooms on campus which are not yet “smart” are set to be converted and funding was available. The rooms are HS101 and PS113. Nick said once they were converted, it should be less money to upgrade or keep them each year. The committee thought that a 5 year strategy would work for the smart classrooms as well. There are approximately 60 smart classrooms total so ~12 would receive upgrades each year. Nick suggested $18,000 as the budget others thought that wouldn’t be enough. The committee settled on $30,000/year though there were concerns that this would not get approved at the budget committee.

Continuing the discussion from previous meetings, James reminded the committee of the need for a broad strategy for replacing technology. There was a lot discussion around the balance of programs that require technology to function versus those that augment their instruction with technology. James asked why we build computer labs where we do. Katie commented the need for funds for IT resources like staffing. Ellen added that regulation sometimes dictates the needs of a program technology or otherwise providing Nursing as an example. Nick suggested that the next replacements might not be desktops given the rapid growth of mobile and the CPU power in tablets. The committee generally agreed there was a need to identify core functions of technology. Nick suggested we divide the strategy into pieces such as staff computers, smart classrooms, and computer lab technology. Katie sited from a previous meeting a strategy identified by the committee “replace 1/5 of all computers on campus every year”. After some discussion and applying this strategy to staff computers, the committee came up with a figure of ~$50,000 covering ~60 computers per year for staff.

James talked about current upgrades that were completed and future upgrades planned in PS107 and CTC 131. It was mentioned that funding will be an issue with enrollment down. The idea from a previous meeting about replacing a certain number of computers every year was thought to be a good one. It would account for computers being a certain age covering a concern of IT. James mentioned that replacing a lot of machines at once was difficult on the IT department with so few staff. Spreading the upgrades over time is a good solution. Discussion will continue at the next meeting