Maxine started the meeting with confirmation of committee members for the year.

Spending plan overview was shared by Maxine. Our allocation for FY2022 is $100,285. Our balance forward (which reflects returning from Covid year) is $77,747. This year we will be updating computers in classrooms. Zak provided a quote of $76,716 for these upgrades. He was asked to give an update as to what rooms/equipment is representative of this number. He stated there are 47 classrooms and computer labs 120 & 126 ($47,135), 10 IRTS checkout pc ($15,750) and 10 IRTS checkout MacBook ($11,280). We will also be purchasing wifi cards for the 47 desktops computers to enable the computers to be utilized without a network port. Converter dongles and HDMI cables will also be ordered.

Maxine requested committee members to look at their spaces to ensure there isn’t anything that is being missed that may need updates or if they have any ideas/projects that students would benefit from.

Magda had questions about the future of IRTS with the re-envisioning discussions that have been taking place. Magda stated the talk is that IRTS is moving towards more manipulatives/technology and less books. Should the committee be thinking of ways to re-imagine the space? Farah asked if “they” have something in mind for IRTS? Maxine explained the money that we have with our tech funds will not be able to sustain re-envisioning IRTS as it will take more staff/personnel and require more training as well as technology/equipment. Magda has concerns they will “take IRTS away as a way of a savings for the library.” Amy stated they were asking questions at their faculty meeting. She stated the faculty made it clear the students use IRTS not only for convenience but they do not have to worry about getting from place to place. She suggested moving the youth library over here. Magda concurred. Amy agreed with Maxine stating you not only want new technology/equipment but you also need to know how to use it and have someone available to teach that. Amy suggested ways for us to get new curricula. Amy stated she “would be very disappointed if they wanted to make IRTS go away.” Farah suggested a survey be done by the students that use IRTS. Maxine stated she has suggested that. She stated there will be a focus group in the future with more surveys.

The future of the Google Expedition cart was discussed. New batteries will be needed before the cart can be checked out again. Discussions ensued about how to move forward with them. No batteries will be ordered until we know when they will be used again.

Maxine stated we will not be having a monthly meeting. She stated she will be meeting with COE Dean to discuss the spending plan.

Mark questioned if we have a tech shortage. In the past we had 3 tech’s. Mark suggested we look at grad students. Ways to hire more students were discussed. Magda suggested we need another Farah. Amy suggested working with local businesses and foundation to secure resources for student tech wages. Farah suggested faculty take turns being a liaison between the school and IRTS.

Next meeting: TBD at 3:00 in SEC 202 or Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Mindy Noble