

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

3:00 P.M.-4:30 P.M., Thursday, November 8, 2001

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Robert Burger, Robert Davis, Eric Loehr, Herb Nickles, Scott Bradbury, James Callahan, Samuel Intrator, Thomas Rohlich, and Gregory White

Absent: Charles Staelin

Routine Invitee: Eric Brewer

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the minutes of the October 25, 2001 meeting.

Reports from Long-Range Planning subcommittees

The subcommittees have scheduled meetings but have nothing new to report.

USA Report – meeting with CAP

Herb and Bob met with CAP to discuss the USA proposal. CAP was very supportive and felt that such a program would increase computer skills for all students. They are concerned about the challenge of financing such a program.

Tom thought it was problematic to make USA a requirement with regard to the type of computer, i.e. laptops. Robert said that as the campus becomes wireless that this mobile capability will make a very different learning and teaching environment. Concerns were raised about on-going training for the faculty, ergonomics, and uses in the classrooms. Herb cited a student survey done last year that was overwhelmingly in favor of laptops and said that 80% of sales this fall in the Computer Store were laptops. There was a discussion about modifying the requirements of USA to only students taking courses that required their use. The issues of student equity and uniform learning, as well as addressing the fact that the students that we target who are coming from private schools that already have USA were discussed at length. Sam noted that if USA is adopted there should be a significant amount of time taken for testing both the technologies and the wireless capabilities so that we don't experience the same sorts of problems that happened with GroupWise.

Robert said that no matter what happens with USA, CET and ITS is moving forward with training in small groups for faculty and as funding becomes available, implementing wireless. Herb said that ITS will be equipping the INC with a rack of laptops.

CET grant proposals

Robert Davis reported that there are eleven grant applications and that he will make them available via the website by Monday, November 12th. The committee will review the proposals and be prepared to vote on them next Thursday, November 15th.

SRIS recommendation

Bob will forward to ITCC the recommendation and rationale of CET with regard to Smith Remote Internet Service. That recommendation is to 1) discontinue service with Crocker Communication, 2) Encourage and assist faculty to choose their own ISP, and 3) Smith would reimburse faculty \$10/month.

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Report of the Director, ETS

Robert reported on the first sessions held in the new videoconference classroom. There were two, three-hour sessions with the University of Illinois which were successfully interactive and very dynamic. He said that the government department had reserved the classroom for use with groups abroad and the Wilson Scholarship.

Report of the Executive Director, ITS

Herb spoke briefly about the progress with Five College INC planning group. He said that a second set of video conferencing equipment is to be installed in Stoddard Hall G4 for small group and administrative applications.

He said that the Mulberry CD's are scheduled to be made tomorrow and that a memo would be going out to faculty that would recommend the appropriate e-mail application for various operating systems and configurations.

Herb also reported that CATS had made the following recommendation on SRIS which would be taken to ITCC:

- 1) Discontinue service with Crocker Communications
- 2) One-time reimbursement of \$100 to \$120 to those who provide proof of service with another ISP.

If SRIS is discontinued, Herb reported that ITS will recommend that students who live off campus be responsible for providing their own Internet access. ITS will connect the recently converted Ada Comstock housing to the Smith campus network.

The Franklin-Hampshire Connect project has chosen a vendor to handle this area and the contract should be signed by the end of November. Global Crossing, the largest ISP in the world, will handle long distance and Internet services and Equal Access will handle the local access. These are the same vendors that have the Berkshire Connect contract. Herb said there is potential to triple the amount of bandwidth for the same price we are presently paying.

There being no further business to discuss on the agenda in the time allotted, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M. The next meeting for C.E.T. will be on November 15th at 3:00 PM in Stoddard Hall G4.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance McGinn, recorder