COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
3:00 P.M.- 4:30 P.M., Thursday, February 21,2002

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Robert Burger, Scott Bradbury, Robert Davis, Herb Nickles, Samuel Intrator, Thomas Rohlich, Charles Staelin, and Greg White

Absent: James Callahan, Eric Loehr, Eric Brewer

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the minutes of the February 7, 2002 meeting.

Long-Range Planning subcommittees- reports

Scott reported that his subcommittee had met and were working on the following issues: standards for email and applications such as MS Word, file management, backing up data files, virus protection, access from anywhere on or off campus, providing issue sheets with FCAP computers, establishing teaching luncheons, and updating the list of CET supported software.

Herb said that Five Colleges is looking at a new library system and software and maybe be employing a new vendor. The committee felt that it would be informative to ask Chris Loring to speak to them about where the Smith library is going with electronic journals and publications.

USA – presentation to the faculty

Bob said that the Provost had requested that he speak to CET about being prepared at the next faculty meeting to address issues that might arise with regard to USA. Charles gave a brief history of the USA recommendation that CET had prepared for CMP last year and said that there had been two concerns expressed by that committee: 1) the financial aid aspect – whether the money that would be required was too much for such an initiative, and 2) whether USA was a good idea in general. He said that there appeared to be more support for such a proposal this year.

Bob said that adopting USA would force Smith to position itself as a campus that is interactive and dynamic with regard to pedagogical rationales for use of laptops in the classrooms. Robert noted that wireless technology was inexpensive and the campus could be wired easily and quickly to stay ahead of need. Herb said that many laptops come with wireless capabilities now and that in the near future it would be a standard feature.

If USA were adopted for Smith, the committee felt that it was essential to maximize the investment that would be required by preparing the faculty in advance with workshops and information on using laptop technology in their various classrooms. For some disciplines, USA may prove to be a selling point when recruiting new faculty. It was also discussed that if tuition were raised in advance of instituting USA, the funds could be used for faculty training and generally preparing the groundwork necessary to ensure the success of the program.

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Tom asked if the committee should prepare a short list of comparable schools who have USA and get feedback from them that could be made available to faculty at the meeting. Robert and Bob will work on information sheets with URL's to sites that relate to USA and will help to inform faculty on this program. The committee also agreed that March 13th was too soon to get the necessary information together and distributed to faculty prior to the meeting. It would be better to postpone the discussion until the April faculty meeting.

Other Business

Bob asked the committee to continue looking at SRIS alternatives and to consider whether CET should have student representatives or perhaps have occasional joint meetings that could include members of the students in technology group. These items will be on the agenda for the next CET meeting.

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. is March 14th at 3:00 PM in Stoddard Hall G4.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance McGinn, recorder