

Monday December 2, 2013, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Seelye B4, Seelye Hall

Present: Tom Laughner (Co-Chair), Dominique Thiebaut (Co-Chair), Tony Caldanaro, Elisa Lanzi, Joseph O'Rourke, Beth Powell, Hélène Visentin, Mark Umstot, Kevin Rocha (Guest)

Absent: Julia Edwards, Deborah Haas-Wilson

1. Approval of October 31 Minutes

2. Demonstration of Virtual Computing Lab (VCL)

- Kevin Rocha, Manager of Learning Spaces/Event Services, presented the demo.
- VCL is a Five Colleges project, with Amherst College being the first to host.
- It was developed as open source software by North Carolina State University.

- It is group sourced.
 - Multiple people work on the software.
 - It is supported by Apache.
 - Aaron Coburn of Amherst College is one of the main workers.

- Faculty would like their students to be able to use their college's customized options while on the campuses of other colleges.
- It is free.
- Blocks of time are offered to reserve (one computer per student).
- It runs on a server.
- It is compatible with anything that is key-served.
- It can be used for licensing purposes.

- Why use VCL?
 - It reduces the cost of hardware.
 - It eliminates the need for dual booting.
 - Students can use on their own equipment.
 - Disabilities software can be used.

- Information can be retrieved from one institution while at another by logging in to the institution from which the information needs to be retrieved.

- North Carolina State allows its faculty to create their own image.
- Macintosh computers (Macs) in Smith classrooms are set up for dual booting. With use of VCL there would be Mac log-ins while VCL would be used to download Microsoft Windows, etc.
 - Students would have their own software.
 - Fewer public computers would be needed.
 - As software is not upgraded for faculty throughout a given academic year, it would be used as a means to provide upgraded software to faculty.
- The highest resolution is 1600 x 1200 pixels.
- School for Social Work (SSW) students may use during the summer.
- Reservation time lengths may be extended. No other commercial package allowed for reservations.
- Studies across the country show that some money may be saved, though it is more about flexibility.
- It is powered through the server and not the desktop.
- There is limitation with regard to a remote desktop client.
- Ask Kevin Rocha for access: krocha@smith.edu, x4202

3. Discussion of CET Grant Guidelines

- The group discussed the Curricular Initiatives in Educational Technology handout approved by the CET on September 19, 2007.
- The handout should be provided to those who are submitting proposals.
- The group discussed whether it should be explicit with regard to grants enhancing teaching and learning rather than being used for research. There was a question of distinguishing from any type of research, as teaching and learning are going to most likely involve research on some level.
- Funding roles over from the previous fiscal year to the next.
- The CET budget supports software, CET grants, and faculty development. The funding can be allocated from one to another if so desired.
- The group discussed whether Libraries still provides special content materials and if that should remain stipulated in the handout.
- The group discussed whether there is a limit to the size of a grant.
 - Departments are not equal with regard to the size of their budgets.
 - The funding of grants can be broken down over different fiscal years.