Committee on Educational Technology (CET)    Fall 2013

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.
  o Students would have their own software.
  o Fewer public computers would be needed.
  o 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.
  o Departments are not equal with regard to the size of their budgets.
  o The funding of grants can be broken down over different fiscal years.