

## Minutes – Information Technology Committee - October 29, 2012

Present: Christine Anton, Lynwood Belvin, Victor Bissonnette, Andy Bressette, Faraj Daoud, Penny Evans-Plants, Nadeem Hamid, Sherre Harrington, Cameron Jordan, Jerry Trammell, Preston Willis, Jeremy Worsham

Nadeem Hamid called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm in Krannert 246.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no corrections. Lynwood Belvin made the initial motion, Andy Bressette seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Jerry Trammell began the meeting by giving the committee an update on their upcoming projects and the outlook for Academic Technology.

- Academic Technology is developing a survey to measure current use and help guide strategic planning for the future of academic technology on campus. The survey will be targeted toward faculty current classroom technology use and ways to streamline technology across campus. Jerry looks for the survey to be administered toward the end of the semester and will distribute a copy of the survey to the committee later today. He asked all committee members to encourage their peers in the departments and schools to complete the survey.
- Jerry reported that in consultation with C&T a new procedure has been established to respond more rapidly to technology emergencies in the classroom. Instead of contacting his department, all issues will now be reported directly to the IT help desk, so that they can quickly route the appropriate person to provide support. Signs are posted in all multimedia-equipped classrooms informing users of the steps to request support.
- The new learning management system was implemented over the summer with the overall response being very positive. The Animal Science department will be using the online grade book over spring semester. Discussion followed by the committee about the use of online grade book across campus and if it was possible to measure its use.
- A manual for faculty use of VikingWeb is available through Jenzabar, but only via their portal. They are exploring ways to post chapters digitally for campus use.
- Academic Technology is also working with the library and the campus legal advisors to develop a policy on digitization of VHS tapes where no digital or DVD copy is available for purchase.

Penny Evans-Plants continued her update on 2012-2013 OIT Projects.

- OIT is working to address the issues reported at last meeting concerning VikingWeb usability. Upgrades to the VikingWeb skin were scheduled to be delivered over fall break, but had to be delayed due to a software bug found in IE 8 and 9. They hope to have this resolved in the next couple of weeks and installed over the next break. Other Jenzabar updates are scheduled for Christmas break.
- Penny contacted some committee members concerning evaluating possible classroom management systems. The three vendors being considered are LandSchool, Smart and Faronics Insight. LandSchool looks to be the preferred vendor at the moment. Classroom Management

systems allow instructors to share screens in labs, administer quizzes and control access to various sites and media during class time.

- Berry has entered into a contract with Gartner, a think tank who specializes in technology trends in education and business, to use as a resource for evaluating upcoming technology purchases. Penny looks for this investment to pay for itself as we renegotiate our Microsoft campus agreement in the coming months. Microsoft is changing everything about how they administer campus licenses and we are very concerned about cost. We are waiting on the pricing announcement from Microsoft in December. Penny anticipates that Office 365 will be in our future, but if the pricing is astronomical, do we consider moving to Google? Office 13 will be available by subscription only, no download. Discussion arose over possibly moving to Google and significant concern was expressed about the difficulty of moving outside of Microsoft by various members of the committee. We will use Gartner's team of analysts to sort through the legalese as we negotiate the contract. Gartner has been used so far to evaluate and implement the Aerohive wireless project, as well as the desktop virtualization project in the Evans lab. Andy Bressette commented in closing that we should consider that many industries use Microsoft as the standard and that this fact should impact our decision regarding the technology offered to our students.
- Penny reminded everyone that the complete list of OIT projects is posted on the committee's VikingWeb page and that a more detailed list that is tied to OIT's strategic plan will be posted soon.
- Quick updates for remaining projects:
  - The rollout for VikingWeb's mobile app is awaiting rollout of version 4.5 of the software.
  - New servers for the campus' virtual server presence have arrived. Conversion will take place over Christmas break. Old servers may be moved to co-location site at Parker Fiber-Net to create additional redundancy and failover protection.
  - Wireless upgrades are complete for this year. OIT is looking for additional funds in order to upgrade additional locations.

Cameron Jordan reported that they will be replacing the campus calendar with a new facilities management product, EMS. They are working through a few remaining issues, but hope to roll it out in the next few weeks.

Penny Evans-Plants gave an update on conversations with Dean Heida on ways to communicate with students outside of email. Penny discussed the possibility of using the library's TV channel to broadcast digital signage in various buildings across campus. Preston Willis stated that most students would prefer the use of text messaging or other social media to email. He also stated that email communication would be more effective if it was used more sparingly. Discussion arose on the use of Twitter at academic institutions.

Nadeem Hamid proposed that we not meet again until January and the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeremy Worsham.