Teaching and Learning Technology Committee
Minutes: 10/19/04 8:00am, PVC Library

Approved (email) 11/01/2004

Present: Dennis Lichty, Gwen Jensen, Lori Nicholson, Paul Karr, Jay Todd, Eddie Elfers, John Dunning, Mark Polenske (for Lacy Schwochow), Gayle Poirier
Absent: Maureen Carrigg, Todd Young, Don Buryanek, James Curtiss

Lori introduced Mark Polenske, who was sitting in for Lacy Schwochow. The minutes of our last meeting were approved as written.

Lori reported that both Dr. McCue and Todd Young approved of the list of suggestions for topics/projects we developed at our last meeting.

There was further discussion concerning Teaching and Learning Technology Committee Proposal/Request Form. Maureen had commented at the last meeting that several incidents had occurred where the technology ordered was not compatible with other campus equipment. The committee agreed that since a routing process for requests is already in place, perhaps we can help define the process rather than create another form. John Dunning suggested we specify the purpose of the request rather than listing specific equipment types. End of the year money is often spent unwisely in a short time period.

In terms of setting campus goals for technology, we were made aware that some units already have 1, 3, and 5 year technology plans in place, but most are not standardized in format. We should encourage each school to develop a consistent plan. Paul mentioned that scientific equipment should also be considered in technology plans, since many scientific software programs now come equipped with their own computer packages. Eddie suggested we find a few sample technology plans and try to offer a more standardized approach. Dennis Lichty suggested that the committee could serve as a sounding board and communicate between the faculty and NATS.

We continued our discussion about possible content of a Committee Web site to serve as an information forum. This should provide committee contact information and possible links to documents of interest, such as sample technology plans, committee minutes, etc. This will be discussed in more detail at our next meeting. Lori will contact Dennis Linster to set up a Website, then notify departments and campus services when it has been published.

Lori asked if there were any other projects we’d like to discuss. Eddie felt strongly that the Online Task Force Report should be one of our priorities, especially since the Faculty Senate is already starting to look at this topic. With the number of online courses increasing rapidly, some guidelines should be set in place as quickly as possible. Paul Karr asked if this was a response to the recent problem of online classes being cancelled at Chadron. Eddie replied in the negative. In that situation, faulty technology created
problems for students receiving course material, and faculty were evaluated poorly, resulting in lower salaries. Eddie reported that the Faculty Senate is discussing online course evaluation. Continuing Education had revised their older form to include a few questions concerning technology, but Eddie felt a separate course evaluation on technology would be valuable. A standardized form should be developed and sent to a central place to evaluate how technology impacted the course.

The Online Task Force Report needs to be revised and recommendations made to Dr. McCue. Eddie felt that something needs to be in place as prerequisite information before students enroll in an online course. This will be discussed further in the next meeting.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on Thursday, November 4 at 8am in the PVC Library. Agenda items will include: completion of the Bylaws and Constitution, and a discussion of the Online Task Force Report to finalize recommendations. Lori will meet with Dennis Linster concerning setting up a committee Website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Poirier