Committee on Academic Technology Minutes  
April 23, 2010  
1:30-3:00 pm, Cudahy 414

Present: Marilyn Bratt, Michael Class, S.J., Steve Crane, Scott D’Urso, Kathy Lang, Barrett McCormick, Lars Olson, Jon Pray, Jame Schaefer, Heidi Schweitzer, Chris Stockdale, Thomas Wirtz

Absent: Margaret Bloom, David Buckholdt, Maria Ibanez, Jack Kelly, Janice Welburn

Guest: Gary Meyer

Recorder: Lars Olson

Reflection/Prayer: Jame Schafer

I. Introduction of Gary Meyer

Chair Chris Stockdale introduced Gary Meyer, the incoming Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs and Teaching. Gary addressed the Committee briefly before excusing himself to go to another commitment. He indicated that he would be replacing Peggy Bloom as the Committee’s co-chair, and that he looked forward to working with the Committee.

II. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of 3/26/2010:

Following discussion and minor revisions, the minutes were approved.

III. Administrative Reports:

The administrative ex officio members who were present provided modest elaboration on their pre-meeting written reports. This included an IT Services Update by Kathy Lang and Education Technology and Instructional Media Center Updates by Jon Pray. Tom Wirtz also summarized his efforts at collecting information on clicker features.

IV. Clicker Policy Issue: Ongoing Discussion

The Committee continued its discussion of clickers, with the aim of moving toward adopting a clicker policy statement. Among the discussion items:

- It was reported that the Bookstore had been contacted regarding clicker resale, and that it has agreed to repurchase used clickers at half the original purchase price.
- The pedagogical value of clickers was discussed, including the fact that they help students become more engaged, especially in large lectures.
- It was suggested that clicker information be made available on Checkmarq.
- The issue was raised that there may be clicker use problems for some with various disabilities. This is something the Committee resolved to keep in mind as it moved forward.
• It was noted that, going forward, the primary alternative clicker technologies were likely to converge, and so in the long run the importance of clicker technology selection guidelines may diminish.

• A consensus emerged that the Committee could propose a clicker policy statement that focused on two or three acceptable clicker technologies, while allowing for a possible avenue for exemption requests that would be reviewed by the Committee.

• Given the evolving state of the technology, the Committee agreed that it would need to review its Clicker Policy Statement periodically, perhaps as often as every two years.

• Chris Stockdale agreed to draft a Clicker Policy Statement based on these generally agreed upon points.

V. Technology Use Survey

The Committee reviewed a draft of the Survey of Technology Use that it hopes to administer during the 2010-2011 academic year. Several individual questions were reviewed/revised by the Committee, and a few additional topics were identified for inclusion in the survey. A revised draft was to be prepared by a subset of the Committee for presentation at the next Committee meeting.

VI. Committee Mission Statement and Vision

It was suggested that the Committee needed to discuss and clarify its role. The relatively late date of Committee creation during the fall of 2009, and the pressing need to address some immediate business precluded the Committee from developing a clear statement of its Mission and Vision. After some discussion of appropriate broad themes and topics, the Committee agreed that this would be a future agenda item.