

Faculty Committee on Educational Technology

Meeting Minutes: March 22, 2013

Officers: Elizabeth Jurisich, Chair; Anthony Bishara, Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM in Robert Scott Small Room 353

Attendance: *Members:* Emily Beck, Anthony Bishara, Deanna Caveny, Margaret Cormack, Renard Harris, Elizabeth Jurisich, Monica Lavin (via video conference), Vijay Vulava

Guests: Andrew Bergstrom, Philip Paradise

Agenda:

1. Vote on Minutes of last meeting.
2. Further discussion of the strategic plan for fiscal year beginning July 1. Brief report from committee member.
3. Continue discussion about priorities, e.g. should classroom computers be prioritized, and as more resources are made available shorten other replacement times?
4. Discussion of Listservs and Forums. Evaluate the efficacy of the current system. Anthony B. has some data to share. Previous FETC documents will be available (sent via email to the committee).
5. Should the FETC send out a survey? Meg has some ideas to share.
6. Other discussion/reports.

Discussion of Agenda Items:

2. Strategic Plan/Replacement Cycle and 3. Continued discussion of priorities (e.g., classroom computers)
 - Liz: Unusual loophole in IT's publicized replacement plan on website – broken computers are not in the replacement plan
 - Phil: IT will fix (regardless of that loophole)
 - Vijay/Phil: Dell will not go longer than 5 years on warranty, so reducing cycle to 5 years could be helpful
 - Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) might eventually solve problem - possibly as early as 2 years, but hard to tell
 - Sandra Childs is testing VDI environment in Bell 500.
 - Windows 7 upgrade over summer may improve speed
4. Listservs/Forums
 - Events are largely posted on FacultyAndStaff listserv, so reviving events listserv may help
 - Andrew: problems with listservs
 - People sometimes post same message on multiple listservs
 - Security concerns – cannot screen listserv users
 - No revoking posts
 - Vijay: RSS feed as possible easy-to-use solution
 - Emily: We should research how other universities handle this problem
 - Andrew: IT is working on alternatives (e.g., Google groups, listservs, forums, Yammer)
 - Wants choice to be informed by users' wants
 - Liz: emphasize ease-of-use, both for posting and access
 - Anthony: if seeking feedback, let users try/experiment with systems rather than surveying hypothetical wants
 - Events problem is compounded by multiple calendars problem
5. FETC Survey
 - Meg suggested an FETC survey to assess computer software/hardware needs, and corresponding IT expertise. Discussion ensued:
 - Possible to add as supplemental questions on Techqual survey in November, but length might deter survey completion

- Techqual already allows comments, but questions are not that specific
- Meg: Possibly have 5-7 open-ended questions
- Survey might help both chairs and IT, particularly with centralized purchasing
- Many of these issues are currently being voted on by IT plan committee (e.g., GIS)

Decisions Made:

- Minutes approved for 2/15/13

Post-meeting Action Items:

- Send listserv/forums/communication ideas to Andrew Bergstrom (BergstromA@cofc.edu)
- Send PC replacement ideas to Philip Paradise (ParadiseP@cofc.edu)

Meeting adjourned: 2:00 PM

Next Meeting: TBD