

IT Advisory Committee Minutes

Monday October 17, 2005

3:00 pm in Dauch 116

Present: Curtis White, Vickie Taylor, Beverly Heimann, Chelsey Bess, Bill Weiss, Boris Kerkez, John Sikula, Jim Kirtland, Pat Edwards, Dave Lifer, Amber Smalley

Packets of the Agenda were sent to: Wendy Schag and Roger Beckett

September minutes were reviewed and approved by John Sikula, Dave Lifer second.

Minutes and Agenda will be posted on the IT website

Carryover Agenda Items/Updates

IT Funding for FY05-06- Curtis discussed that the IT funding still remains very tight. He let the Center Directors know that there is little flexibility for even the break/fix problems. If it is something very inexpensive, it can be taken care of, but other things may be put on hold. There are funds for student workers, travel to Regional Centers, staff training, and Internet service (and T1 lines). If there are no surprises, we can make it through this fiscal year.

Policy Updates and Additions- Curtis spoke on the Email Policy and told the committee about the recommended change from the last meeting being put into place. He then asked if there were any other recommendations or questions. Curtis also spoke about the Tech Refresh Policy and stated that the policy addressed the many ways IT and the departments handle system replacements and consumables around campus. He then asked if there were any recommendations or questions.

- Vickie Taylor suggested sending the Email Policy link out to all faculty and students to let them know that this policy exists and what its meaning is.
- Pat Edwards stated during the discussion of the Tech Refresh Policy that she has received numerous complaints on the idea of consolidating printers in the Education building. She suggests that maybe we program the printers to have special jobs come from another printer drawer. Curtis stated that we need to get this taken care of, because when we move to the new College of Education building it could become an even bigger problem. Curtis then suggested that he would get Pat and MT together to resolve the problem. Pat Edwards said to also have MT speak with the Administrative Assistants in the Education department because they use these printers the most and will have better suggestions.

Information and Updates- Curtis talked about the Cisco Clean Access program, the Wireless Access Map, and the PC donations from Ashland University.

- Cisco Clean Access- Curtis stated that this was working very well for all faculty and students. He says we are strategizing with other colleges to find out the pros/cons for their campus and ours as well. He then gave an example of a decision made by Kent State which caused problems on their campus. He stated that we will do better and we are learning a lot from the institutions we are working with on Clean Access.
 - Boris Kerkez spoke of his Antivirus program called Avast not being noticed by Cisco Clean Access. Curtis let him know that he would make sure that it was added to the list.
- Wireless Access Map- Vickie Taylor wants to have the Seminary added to the map, but Curtis suggested that because the Seminary is as big as it is, we may have to have two different map links for this site.
- PC Donations- Curtis stated that we are continuously giving PC donations throughout the year.

Grant Initiatives- Curtis spoke on the topic, but said there was nothing to report as of now. He has a call in about the HP Grant, but does not know if it is going to happen.

New Agenda Items

Ohio Independent CIO Meeting- Curtis spoke on Chief Information Officer meeting held at Capital University on October 5th (25 Ohio private institution IT reps. attended). He also spoke on security, network access, budgets, and Open Source.

- At this meeting there was a recurring theme resonating through the room and it all started with one question. How was the start of the semester? Everyone using Cisco Clean Access said it was working very well for them. Several institutions had very difficult semester starts because they had not invested in Cisco or a similar product to help protect their student networks. Curtis continued on to say that he is very pleased with the decisions that Ashland University has made and that it was also a recurring theme at the meeting that a lot of other institutions are on a very tight budget this year as well.
- Curtis then spoke on Open Source learning management system, Sakai (www.sakaiproject.org). There are no initial license fees, but we will have to pay for the new staff, so there are some tradeoffs which must be weighed. He then continued on to say that any move to Sakai or other Open Source products would require an extensive pilot program first.

BlackBoard Purchase of WebCT- Curtis spoke on the purchase of WebCT by the BlackBoard Company and where this puts Ashland University in the near future. Then he went on to talk about Acacia.

- Curtis has let us know that WebCT was purchased by BlackBoard. This may lead to us seeing some licensing adjustments in the future and eventually WebCT will cease to exist. Curtis then led into this being the reason that we may want to look at going with another company or going with Sakai. If training would be needed for this, Curtis will have Jenni Walton and Randy Spears trained first and then others if necessary.
- For now though, Curtis says will push on with WebCT for those who want to learn to teach using the online learning management system.
- Pat Edwards then asked when we would be switching to BlackBoard and Curtis said not until WebCT ceases to exist. No switch is certain at this point.
- Vickie Taylor asked about putting students into the WebCT database and if there was an easier way to do this other than manually. Curtis replied by saying, "No, we always have had it as a manual option." He also let Vickie know that he would talk with Randy Spears about this question and see what he could do to make it a smoother process for everyone. Curtis then went on to let everyone know that WebCT licenses are based upon institution size and not the number of students who are using it, so we are paying for the entire campus no matter what.
- Curtis then spoke on Acacia, which is a research corporation that is a legal entity more than anything else. This is a company that purchases technology related patents and does not produce anything of concrete substance. They claim that higher education institutions using streaming technology must license the right to do so from them because they claim to own the patents to this technology. No action is planned on this issue at this time and the matter has been referred to our legal representative..

IT Strategic Plan- Curtis reviewed the Board Report for October 2005 and the IT Strategic Plan.

- Curtis spoke on the IT strategic plan, saying that he wanted to give everyone a chance to look at it and read it over carefully. He reminded us that it was written in a time when money was less of an obstacle, so it is not realistic for Ashland University right now. He is currently working to put a plan together that is based more on the Institutional needs and availability. Curtis then said that he wants to get 5 or 6 people together to see where we can make some changes to the plan to better it for the entire campus.
- Curtis then spoke on the Board Report of October 2005 and he let us know that this report was reality-based for us at this time and it is exactly where we are and it states exactly what we need to do to face the challenges ahead. He then asked

for anyone to let him know if they have an interest in being on a team to revise the report for the new calendar year. He wants to get a rough draft to the IT Advisory Committee at the December meeting before the Board of Trustees gets to review it.

Construction Update

- Curtis spoke on this topic and said that there was not much to tell and that things were moving very well. The Kettering proposal was finalized on October 17th, 2005, and this was the 16th version being that he wanted to get all of the technology going in the right direction so that it would be easier to replicate it in the other new buildings.
- Bill Weiss asked where we were with laptop carts in the new buildings. Curtis let him know that there were none budgeted as of yet, but he does know that Kettering has asked for 2 carts with 15 laptops in each of them and The College of Education has asked for 2 carts with 15 laptops in one and 15 iBooks in the other.
- Vickie Taylor then went on to ask what happens in 3 years when all 3 new buildings need replacements. Curtis went on to answer this question by letting everyone know that different technologies need replaced at different times and it is not an exact science as to when things need replaced. He said that there are only about 40 PC's in all of the new buildings combined and none of the new buildings have anything like a Ridenour Wall that Dauch has. He then said that starting next summer we may be bringing some of Patterson 200 systems over to Dauch to do some updating.

Subcommittees

1. Student Computer Initiative- This committee did not meet this month and will meet for sure next month.
2. IT Strategic Planning- Temporarily being put on hold.
3. Software Coordinating Committee- Brian Wisneiwski is at Educause this week and he will be kicking this off very soon.

Comments

Bill Weiss wants to give up with paper notifications and change everything into Emails, if they give students an advanced notice.

- Chelsey Bess said that she thinks all students use the AU Email very often because of the stern information given in their IUL class. She suggested marking them urgent (red envelope).
- Pat Edwards said that her Graduate students do not use AU Email often, but it would be very easy to teach them.

Curtis then let everyone know that there are several people who are sending spoof AU Emails to spread viruses into our network. He said that IT is trying to look at a way to stop it, but right now it is just a nuisance and our spam and virus filters are functioning as planned.

Next Meeting- November 21, 2005 at 3P.M. in Dauch 116

Motion to Adjourn by Vickie Taylor and seconded by Pat Edwards.

Meeting Adjourned