

Minutes

Kansas State University Faculty Senate

Committee on Technology Meeting

March 19, 2002 - 1:30 p.m. - Room 205, K-State Union

1. Our next FSCOT meeting

Dr. Rebecca Gould (ITAC) requests FSCOT's support in the no food and drink policy in the high tech classrooms. They are difficult and expensive to clean. Additionally, equipment may be destroyed. Dr. Gould has given us expenses for cleaning Umberger 105 (mostly a lecture classroom) as \$650 (3 cleanings) and Justin 109 (5 days cleaning Christmas vacation, \$550). FSCOT is concerned that there are several different types of rooms, those which have computers, those which have www access with each seat, and finally those where only an electronic lecture podium is present. We would expect the least trouble with those with only a podium like Umberger 105 and Justin 109. The problem may be more severe than we had thought. Pictures are available for the next meeting.

2. Web access for people with disabilities (Janelle Corkill Chair). State regulations address the objective to make it possible to transfer of the same information (quality/quantity) to people with disabilities as those who do not have those disabilities. The standards kit has been sent to our department heads and can be obtained from ITAC (see Tim). FSCOT sees advantage in Faculty Senate Leadership Council suggesting to each dean that this issue be delivered to their units.

Resolution for Faculty Senate: Be it resolved that Faculty Senate and its Leadership Council are committed to the goal of website access to KSU information by persons with disabilities. We resolve to support progress in each of our units toward attaining this important goal (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY).

How can you tell if your college is making progress toward meeting the guidelines for Web access to the handicapped? Contact Janelle to be signed up for a list server to discuss such issues in more depth. As an example, this list serv recently forwarded an IRL to its participants h.

3. Portal Software, Directed Services Authentication and Integrated Information Infrastructure. Choices of Portal Software. Tweed Ross is FSCOT's attendee. Students can register and fill out the multitude of forms needed to go to the University with one access. We are investigating reports (Mel Chastain) of availability of electronic advising software. Student data files contain their picture, courses, course pathway. Gail Simmonds will be sending us information on this important feature. Large multidisciplinary research projects may benefit from implementation of a portal. FSCOT has asked that I inquire from Mel Chastain ECC the degree to which electronic advising (supplied by Salina) is being implemented.

Directed services authentication. (Chuck Gould, Neil Erdwin and Harv Townsend addressed us 2/19/02 about Authentication, Authorization-K-State Enterprise Authentication System (KEAS). Authentication (demonstrating that you're you) will be stored in a K-State Lightweight Directory Access Protocol - an industry standard - and authentication provided for any system we're authorized by metadata tags to use under integrated information infrastructure (III). During the first year, e-mail, the KSU calendar and K-state web services will be incorporated. At a later time, K-State on line and KATS will be incorporated. In the moderate term future we will move to web servers and applications of other institutions from a single access. Participation from each of our

Colleges and Departments is entirely voluntary. FSCOT indicates that it is not enough to put hardware in place, help to maintain hardware is needed. Harv indicated that he had requested help.

Integrated information infrastructure. Dr. Dave Hillier addressed us on 2/19/02. III will move beyond compartmentalized information silos. Portals will serve as a persisting desk to employ search engines, metadata, networks and servers to mine data warehouses, electronic journals, collections, videos and music and immersion-virtual reality. We are contracted to be put up Oracle Financial and Oracle Student Systems. How will these programs change our lives? Both programs will decrease the numbers of passwords, streamline business bottlenecks and approval bottlenecks, Security will tighten with a single sign on. Finally, services to students (support for DCE students) and employees (remote electronic journal access).

FSCOT questions whether we have planned sufficient support to carry this out. Do we have sufficient money to carry this out? Will we have to change our passwords more frequently, because they access so many places. Will extension/research people be able to carry 2 identities that clients have come to know them under?

5. High Performance Computing.

Dr. Beth Unger group's blueprint for High Performance Computing (HPC) is patterned after a Faculty senate committee report on this subject (Byron Jones, Chair, Talat Rahman member). Local service is available with loosely coupled clusters. 1 Terrodyne (donated by WalMart) has been used by one animal breeder with Animal Science to solve intricate matrices. He is sending us some material in support. The BeoCat (Linux) Cluster can be read about at [h Beocat](#) is also available locally to solve parallel computing problems (matrices, displays/mapping). People writing grants should find out information to write it into their grants if appropriate. This is not a new concept, Beowulf clusters have been operational for >10 y.

6. Schedule 25 (Ruth Dyer, Chair)

FSCOT (Dave Warren representative). Salina joining Schedule 25 is in progress. So far Salina can see no progress, but is hopeful. FSCOT feels we continue to need to monitor any real progress going on.