

1. We plan to hold our next FSCOT meeting on December 18, 2001; 1:30 pm KSU Union 205. There was discussion about the need for a December meeting. We will decide by December 10, 2001 whether we need to meet in December. ***Please read, add to and comment upon these minutes.***

2. Web access for people with disabilities (Janelle Corkill Chair). ***What is FSCOT doing with this issue?*** Janelle Corkill and Jane Rowlett attended our FSCOT meeting to educate us on this program. Jane returned to answer additional questions. The program is mandated by the Federal and State Governments. Its objectives are to make it possible to transfer of the same information (quality/quantity) to people with disabilities as those who do not have those disabilities.

Ann Murray and Gail Simmonds attend the central University committee on Web access for those with disabilities. Janelle and Jane indicated that the standards that they're helping develop will encourage confluence of our efforts and those of the Braille readers-handicapped assistants. Program guidelines should be released soon. This program applies to new material in our distance courses. It will eventually apply to all distance courses that have 1 or more students with disabilities. Adobe 5 "Jaws" programs are available to demonstrate what those with disabilities experience when using the enhanced programs.

Jane Rowlett attended our 11/27/01 meeting and answered further questions on Web access for persons with disabilities. We believe that we have received sufficient education on this issue to ask the Faculty Senate to join us in committing as advocates for its success.

***Resolution for Faculty Senate:*** Be it resolved that Faculty Senate and its Leadership Council are advocates for-committed to the successful website access by March 2002 of any new material used in distance education by persons with disabilities. As advocates we resolve to monitor progress in each of our colleges, answer questions, offer advice and assistance and report to Faculty Senate on progress toward attaining this important goal. ***(Please comment on and/or rewrite this resolution before we vote on it in Faculty Senate).***

***How can you tell if your college is making progress toward meeting the guidelines for Web access to the handicapped?*** 3 programs are available. Bobby is used to assess access for those with disabilities. Dream Weaver 4 and Front Page 2002 function as page creators to minimize difficulties in access for students with disabilities. Content should be transferred for both those with disabilities and those without them. Thus, difficult images or tables needed for quality content should be kept in and dealt with. We are trying to help transfer content to people with disabilities so that they are included with those of us who do not have disabilities.

3. Jane Rowlett addressed our committee on **Choices of Portal Software** at our 11/27/01 meeting. Tweed Ross attended this month's meeting. Although convenience for administrators, their assistants and students has driven the initial push for software selection, >75% of the final benefit will be to researchers. For example, students can register and fill out the multitude of forms needed to go to the University. Although it is possible to sell University products, it is more about providing service the student needs in a way that is simplest for our prospective students. Electronic storage and recall will

give the impression of efficiency to both staff and students.

Portals are about single access for all functions/files the user is allowed to access. It allows remote access and customization, and interaction with large groups of participants. After overcoming logistic barriers, team teaching from separate universities (currently practiced with KSU internet II) will be smoother (more seamless). Integrated information and intelligence (I<sup>3</sup>) potentially relates to the application of Portal Software. Dave Hillier (I<sup>3</sup>) will visit FSCOT so we can integrate his efforts more fully.

Scientists at remote locations and in foreign countries can collaborate smoothly. Data can be placed in a multidimensional comparison location and examined in variants of 3 dimensions and significant results saved. Chat rooms can be established to discuss the results. Manuscripts can be written from 2 locations simultaneously.

***Recommendation to Faculty Senate:*** Large multidisciplinary research projects will benefit the most from Portal software. We suggest that such groups contact Jane and communicate details that will help them collaborate more efficiently, examine data from multiple laboratories, critique the data in chat rooms, and write papers from multiple locations simultaneously.

FSCOT is no longer concerned about whether Portal software will be chosen, it will. We compete with those who are skilled in the use of portals, and we must be also to enjoy the competitive advantage of single remote access, customization and interactions with large groups of participants.

Let's make the portal software most useful to those of us who will use it most. Our committee suggested projects such as Konza Prairie, Long Term Ecological Research (LTER). John Boyer was suggested as having potential statistical interest. Help us identify more projects which fit into this category.

**4. Schedule 25 (Ruth Dyer, Chair).** Dave Warren attended this month's meeting and reported to FSCOT. FSCOT and the departments it represents are concerned that multiple use technology class rooms aren't as available for special use as the people who collaborated with VPAST to build and pay for the rooms would like them to be. Secondly, committee members suggested including Salina in Technology classroom scheduling. We've been intending to do this for >1 yr.