

Minutes
Faculty Senate Committee on Technology
12/6/11 – 3:30 PM in Union 213

Attending:

Committee members - Crawford, Stadtlander, Brooks-Keiffer, Grinter, Stafford, Bormann, Knackendoffel, Molidor (via polycom), Fees, Pahwa, Raine, Rintoul (chair).

Guests - Rebecca Gould.

- 1) Approval of minutes from the last meeting
- 2) Discussion with Steve Levin - did not occur
- 3) Discussion of meeting with McGraw-Hill rep to supply materials for our courses electronically. Have requested written material about this proposal, which is already in place at Indiana University, but none has arrived (to date). Basically the proposal is to charge a much-reduced price for ebooks and other materials (estimated 1/3 of the current price), but ALL students would be charged, regardless of whether or not they take advantage of this electronic information. Pilot project proposed. Issues of flexibility; how to charge students (tuition, fee?); if charged via Varney's, how much information can we pass to a private business vis-à-vis class rosters; e-books are not permanent, you are basically renting the book, etc. Business model designed to make more money, with less hassle, for textbook publishers and bookstores. Is this a good business model from the university perspective? Who knows? Some more information at <http://www.ecampusnews.com/top-news/indiana-university-tries-to-drive-down-textbook-costs-with-ebooks/>
- 4) Zimbra
 - a. What's the problem? – vendor issue, upgrade went OK, problems developed after that. Several hypotheses, no real answer at that time.
 - b. What can be done about it? – committee (including students) to be formed to examine ALL the options for replacing Merit (our current vendor) in the 7 months (now 6) before that contract expires. Many issues (calendar, splitting student email from fac/staff email, etc.)
- 5) Other
 - a. Bronwyn Fees announced that she would be on sabbatical next semester, and that a replacement from her college would be named soon.
 - b. Purchase of K-State-related xxx sites (k-state, kansas state university, athletics, alumni sites, wildcats) ongoing to keep porn vendors from taking these and confusing the alumni and students with ksu-named porn sites. Will cost several thousand dollars per year to pre-empt this problem.
- 6) Plans for next meeting