

**FSCOT
Minutes
September 4, 2012, 3:30 pm, Union 213**

Attending: Brooks-Kieffer, Crawford, Featherstone, Hartman, Knackendoffel, Lindshield, Pahwa, Raine, Rintoul (chair), Stadlander, Stafford, Stavropoulos

- 1) Minutes of May 1, 2012 meeting were approved
- 2) Report from last year's activities (Rintoul) - Resolution re textbook price availability, adopted by senate last spring, resulted in significantly improved Varney's web site design and software. Students should now be able to see many other options for purchasing their books. Thanks to all who helped with the resolution and voted for it.
- 3) Updates on IT issues, status of initiatives (Stafford)
 - a. Slowdown and crash of iSIS discussed. Even though additional servers were deployed, the load balancer failed and did not balance the load over 800 servers. Shut down after it became clear that some students were able to see cached pages from other students' sessions. This was tracked to a setting/bug in PeopleSofts software. There are approximately 8 days per year when load on these servers is incredibly high, but there is very little load the rest of the year. Exploring options for solution (e.g. cloud servers) for these few days a year.
 - b. Stafford solicited volunteers for a small advisory group to look at K-State Online from the outside, discuss possible changes or integrations with other commercially available CMS.
 - c. Email committee – not much happening yet
 - d. E-portfolio implementation – ditto, but there is an identified need to involve Faculty Affairs, since many of the questions to be resolved are not technical, but rather policy questions for faculty-generated data.
 - e. Connect initiative (portal) – advisory committee will meet soon
- 4) Discussion of potential FSCOT issues and initiatives for upcoming academic year
 - a. University-wide initiative to develop free electronic textbooks for classes with course numbers below 200 (Andy Bennett). Do we want to do this, how can we incentivize it, how can we fund it? Many questions, for which we need data and answers. Brian Lindshield will provide some information about his flexbook, as well as a survey, for our next meeting.
 - i. flexbook – [http:// goo.gl/vOAnR](http://goo.gl/vOAnR)
 - ii. publication (Educause) - <http://www.educause.edu/ero/article/kansas-state-university-human-nutrition-hn-400-flexbook>
 - iii. Survey results emailed by Brian 9/5/2012
 - b. iTunes U – need to find more information from Apple folks, and perhaps from Eric Dover.
- 5) Adjourned