Minutes
Kansas State University Faculty Senate
Committee on Technology Meeting

January 21, 2003 - 1:30 p.m. - Room 205, K-State Union

Present: Chang, Haddock, Montelone, Murray, Pickrell, Ross, Simmonds, Warren
Guest: Dr. Rosemary Talab, Coordinator of the Intellectual Property Information
Center

Dr. Talab agreed to talk to the committee and answer questions
about the new TEACH (Technology Education and Copyright
Harmonization) Act and its impacts on and significance to online
and distance education. She stated that this is a law that was
passed by Congress in November of last year as part of an
appropriations bill and was intended to make it easier for
instructors to use various types of materials in online courses,
specifically dramatic, musical, and visual works such as portions of
films, photographs, etc. It was not controversial because it still
affords copyright holders significant protections, being limited to
uses for students enrolled in online courses taught on secure,
password-protected networks such as K-State Online, Blackboard,
and WebCT. Credits and copyright notices must be given for
works or portions of works being used. Dr. Talab will work with
faculty members to assist them in their uses of such materials to
ensure that they are in compliance with the law; she mentioned
several methods that can assist in this regard. One is to create a
link from an online course site to a copyrighted object rather than
copying it; another is to use "thumbnails"--small, low-resolution
images that are not commercially viable--which can be used
without obtaining permission from a copyright holder. Items such
as PDF versions of journal articles are generally acceptable to use
on a course site through linking, otherwise faculty should see the
conditions of use on the site for each journal or report. Quite often
one article per journal is acceptable if it is not more than 1/10 of
the issue. In the case of government entities (.gov), such as the
National Archives, NASA, or others, most of these works can be
freely used as long as proper credit is given. Another helpful guide
is the Educational Multimedia Fair Use Guidelines, which are very
useful in determining quantity amounts. These guidelines can be
found at
http://www.ksu.edu/academicservices/intprop/CBasics.htm/

Dr. Talab stated that an important consideration in copyright and
fair use cases is scale--the size of the class and number of
students who will have access to the materials. For example,
twenty-five or fewer students is generally considered a "safe" small
class size; a large class, e.g., 250 students, places a greater
responsibility on the instructor to use "reasonable and limited
portions" of copyrighted materials than in a smaller class.

Relevant URLs on the TEACH Act are:
http://www.ksu.edu/academicservices/intprop/whatsnewJan03.htm
http://www.ksu.edu/academicservices/intprop/TEACHact.htm
http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/teachact.htm

A discussion on plagiarism ensued. Talab pointed out that multiple

homework sites exist and that for a few hundred dollars, a student can buy a term paper. There are programs available to detect work of this sort which some universities have purchased (KSU has not). Some courses prevent students from the simplest types of plagiarism by making them write assignments in class or by making assignments very specific. But Talab stated that she thinks the problem will only grow because there are too many subtle ways to cheat. She offered to report back to FSCOT at a future date with more on the plagiarism issue.

Talab concluded by reiterating that while she works out of the university attorney's office, her function is not to offer legal advice, but to provide information, resources, and strategies to faculty members with questions about intellectual property and copyright issues. Faculty are encouraged to contact her for advice and assistance on using copyrighted materials. Individuals with specific questions about legal status should take those to the university attorney.

In other business, Montelone reported and Chang concurred that we had an answer to the question Chang raised at the last meeting about KATS timing out during advising sessions. The reason for this is that we possess only 192 "agents" for licensed sessions-- meaning that only 192 people can be logged on to KATS at any one time. Thus it is not possible to have it stay open for faculty or advisors using a computer with a fixed IP address. Chang pointed out that it would be possible in theory to write software that would allow batch processing of KATS activities such as multiple flag lifts, but the committee agreed it was unlikely that anyone would do this.

Montelone reported additional information from Mel Chastain on the online advising project Simmonds mentioned at the December FSCOT meeting. This is a grant-funded project based on the K-State Online set of tools that will allow an academic advisor access to data from several databases and will collate those data into a single-screen format. Chastain will demonstrate this tool at the February FSCOT meeting.

Haddock asked about the progress of the Portal Prototype Project. Simmonds and Ross reported that it is not yet fully functional. Montelone will contact Jane Rowlett about a possible demonstration in February.

Haddock reported that the Digital Library project is in progress; the team are working with consultants to create the core integration system that will tie together the various components of the Library. We may be able to have a demonstration at our June meeting. Haddock also informed us that VPAST Unger has provided funds for purchase of a bibliography program called RefWorks that is available for use by faculty members and others. It can be accessed from a link on the KSU Libraries page. Ross described the features of the program and how it facilitates converting a bibliography from one journal style to another. Haddock stated that the person to contact about it is Sara Kearns, the Business librarian.