Minutes
Kansas State University Faculty Senate Committee on Technology
February 19, 2004 - 2:00 PM - K-State Union 205

Members present: Fritz, Haddock, McHaney, Michaels, Murray, Ross, Selfridge, Simmonds, Warren

Guests: Royce Gilbert, Andrew Barkley, Rebecca Gould, Victoria Clegg

Royce Gilbert, Manager, CNS LAN Technology, reported on the $10 printing credit being provided to K-State students, faculty, and staff. Beginning this January, $10 worth of free high-quality laser printing is being provided in the fall and spring semesters and $5 worth in the summer. This limited free printing is available in the InfoCommons in Hale Library and the University Computing Labs in Dickens, Seaton, Nichols, Justin, the Union Computing Center and the Interactive English lab. K-Staters can access the free printing by using their eID/password. The $10 value is equivalent to 100 black-and-white single sided pages or 13 color pages. Black-and-white copies are 10 cents per single-sided sheet, and 18 cents per double-sided sheet. Color copying is available in the Media Development Center for 75 cents per single-sided sheet. K-Staters can opt to print a combination of black-and-white or color, and single- or double-sided pages up to $10. A Wildcat Card is required for any printing beyond the $10 value. Unused balances do not carry forward to the next semester. Free printing was extensively tested during the fall 2003 semester. All K-Staters who participated received the equivalent of $2 of free laser printing. The project's success allowed the service to be officially implemented this semester. The service is provided by Computing and Network Services and K-State Administration.

Andrew Barkley, 2003-2004 Coffman University Distinguished Teaching Scholar, made a presentation requesting faculty support for online grade submission. The proposal is supported in a letter from eight Coffman Chair recipients. They are requesting the ability to submit final course grades via K-State Online. Switching to online grade reporting would be done on a voluntary basis. The savings in paper, labor, and cost could be significant, particularly for large classes. Online grade submission already occurs at many other academic institutions. FSCOT members expressed strong support for this proposal. During discussion, it was noted that training would be needed for those faculty members opting to move to online grade submission, and that the issue of possible hacking into the system would need to be dealt with. Murray moved that a proposal for online grade submission be brought to Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Ross seconded. The motion passed unanimously. It was recommended that support for the concept also be provided directly from individual departments.

Rebecca Gould, Director of the Information Technology Assistance Center, reported on accessibility compliance of online and distance education courses. Federal government agencies have ruled that accessibility must be built-in when distance education courses are created. Two groups have been formed, one to examine policy issues and the second to begin putting together technical information that will help faculty proceed as

they develop course content. The goal is to have informational / help material available to faculty by August 1, 2004.

Victoria Clegg, Director of the Center for Advancement of Teaching and Learning, discussed IDEA and TEVAL faculty evaluation system initiatives. IDEA is the older of these student-rating systems. It began in the mid-1970s. TEVAL has been in place since the mid-1980s. IDEA is a formative tool that allows faculty to get feedback from students to improve their teaching. TEVAL has become more of an administrative decision-making tool used by departments and department heads. In the mid-1990s the Kansas Board of Regents mandated use of such evaluative systems. IDEA costs money, for the forms have to be purchased. TEVAL processing is done in-house. Due to the mainframe soon going away, there is currently an opportunity to create an online environment for evaluations. As of January 2005, there will no longer be paper TEVALs - they will be in an online environment. A letter will be going out soon announcing this. There is a need for more flexibility to be built into the current process, e.g. questions and templates can perhaps be created or customized to more effectively handle evaluations of online courses, continuing education, studios, and labs. There are also policy issues to be resolved. A faculty member cannot access evaluation results prior to grades being given. Another issue deals with who receives the reports. The IDEA system is not being replaced. Faculty would have an array of options. Paper IDEA forms could still be used if desired or the IDEA evaluations could be done online. There is also an ongoing issue of students wanting evaluation results published. This could be done online, but IDEA and TEVAL would not be good means to do this. Eventually there might be a need for a separate evaluation mechanism. There was discussion of how to encourage better student participation in evaluations. The College of Agriculture Caucus representative expressed strong concern about the move to offer TEVALs only online. Within some departments, TEVAL scores are used to rank faculty. There is a fear that the lower participation typically seen in online evaluations might have detrimental effects on these rankings. Dr. Clegg offered to speak to individual departments if that would be of any assistance.

The next FSCOT meeting will be Thursday, March 4th at 2:00 PM in Union 205.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.