Minutes
Kansas State University Faculty Senate Committee on Technology
November 6, 2003 - 2:00 PM - K-State Union 205

Members present: Fritz, Haddock, McHaney, Murray, Rintoul, Selfridge, Simmonds

Guests: Steve Galitzer, Angela Chauncey, Loren Wilson, Nancy Calhoun, Leigh Cunningham

Steve Galitzer, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, reported on new online training initiatives being developed by that office. Each college has formed an Environmental Health and Safety Committee and the central Department of Environmental Health and Safety has become responsible for consulting, auditing, and training. Web-based training has been developed through K-State Online, and is being designed with the assistance of a graduate student from the College of Education. There are two types of training available, one for the college safety committees, and the other for all K-State employees. The training modules can be accessed via the Department of Environmental Health & Safety website at:
http://www.ksu.edu/safety/training.htm
Every faculty and staff member is enrolled through K-State Online in a course titled "Safety 101". Some of the training modules have been created in-house, and some have been purchased. Modules currently available on the system include ergonomics, hazardous waste training, general waste awareness, laboratory safety, and hazard communication. A number of additional training modules will be added. In the ensuing discussion, some FSCOT members expressed concern that formerly centralized health and safety monitoring and inspecting was being passed on to the colleges. It was felt that there is a real need for the University to provide adequate resources to facilitate the success of health and safety activities, whether these occur centralized or at the college level.

Angela Chauncey, Applications Developer in the Division of Continuing Education, and Loren Wilson, Application Development Manager in Continuing Education, gave a report on the new online advising system. The development of this online academic advising system came about as part of a larger U. S. Department of Education project to provide online services to distance learners. The goal of this portion of the project was to build a tool to facilitate academic advising for both resident and distance students. A pilot group of 12-15 K-State advisors worked with DCE programmers to develop the system. K-State Online was selected as the interface because it is a secure, familiar to many K-State users, and provides for a means of easy communication between advisors and students. The new system was opened up for use at the beginning of October, and already has 112 advisors utilizing it. Wilson reported that the biggest development hurdle was getting the DARS reports integrated with K-State Online in a format that could be easily printed. Chauncey gave a quick demo of some of the system capabilities, including rosters, file uploading, calendars, DARS formatting, and messaging capabilities.
Nancy Calhoun, Information Technology Trainer with the Information Technology Assistance Center, described the training and demos that are provided to advisors wishing to use the system. ITAC will give training to individual advisors or entire departments. A person will not be given "advisor status" in K-State Online until he or she has completed the training. Call-in assistance is available 7:00 AM to midnight Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Friday,

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM on Sundays. Leigh Cunningham, College of Arts and Sciences Advisor, described her work with the pilot group and how she currently utilizes the system. FSCOT member Ann Murray related the very positive experience she had learning the system and how well it is assisting her in her advising duties.

The next FSCOT meeting will be Thursday, December 4th at 2:00 PM in room 205 of the K-State Union.