

Minutes

Kansas State University Faculty Senate Committee on Technology

December 4, 2003 - 2:00 PM - K-State Union 204

Members present: Ching, Haddock, Knapp, Michaels, Murray, Rintoul, Selfridge, Simmonds, Warren

Guests: Jane Rowlett, Lloyd Walker, Beth Unger

Jane Rowlett, Director of Administrative Services and Chair of the University Portal Committee, and Lloyd Walker, Project Manager for Data and Information Administration, provided an update on the K-State Portal Project. The University Portal Committee was appointed two years ago. They have struggled with lack of funding due to major budget reductions that occurred. Even so, the Portal Project is still moving forward. This past winter a prototype K-State portal was developed working with a consultant from Oracle. Assistance was obtained from Campus EAI (Enterprise Application Integration), a group of educational institutions that provide grant support and advice. K-State has done assessment and is now in the planning phase for putting together a beta portal. Planning is scheduled to be complete in January, with a beta K-State portal in place during the spring. Ten applications have been identified that will be placed into the beta portal as portlets. Among these are K-State Online, KATS, CATnet digital library, e-mail, calendaring, and some student information applications.

Beth Unger, Vice Provost for Academic Services and Technology, described how they have been scrapping-up funds here and there to enable this project to continue moving forward. K-State put in a proposal and gained funding to construct a portal for Kan-Ed, which has had many positive benefits in staff experience and expertise that is aiding in the development of the beta K-State portal. A FSCOT member inquired about the e-mail aspect of the portal. A team member on the E-mail Enhancement Project is also working on the Portal Project. Another FSCOT member asked that appropriate consideration be given to promotion of the portal once it is live. In just the past few days, the University of Kansas has made a portal with limited functionality available. Rowlett is soliciting faculty members to serve on a Faculty User Advisory Group that would participate in the development of the Scholars' Desk portion of the Portal Project. Similar user groups are being formed for student services, administrative users, and academic departments and deans.

Vice Provost Unger briefed FSCOT on several issues and initiatives. CITAC (Computing and Information Technology Advisory Committee) has been given a charge to create a strategic plan for IT on campus. This plan is to provide strategic directions and be in place within two years. Jim Guikema, Associate Vice Provost for Research and Graduate School, is chairing CITAC.

IRMC (Information Management Resource Council) will have two interrelated focuses this year: information management infrastructure policies and security. Security has two immediate pressure points. The first is our response to Federal Government guidelines for the protection of data that will result in a University Security Plan. The second pressure point involves security directives coming from the State of Kansas. State guidelines are being drastically tightened. Discussion is now centered on whether the state universities will be included under these

guidelines or exempted. IRMC serves as the policy council for university information management infrastructure matters. Laurel Littrell, Interim Assistant Dean of Libraries, is chairing IRMC this year. The campus data stewards group is working on actual policies that will come before IRMC.

The Vice Provost informed us that they are looking into what it would take cost and work-wise to make the entire campus wireless accessible. A move is also underway to make the campus telephonic system better. As part of this process, switching from one system to another will happen sometime during the first two weeks of January. When the switch occurs, the telephone system will be down for 4 hours from 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM. Specific notification will be given later.

Student services and academic and administrative computing are a major focus in creating portlets for the portal. The goal is to enable students to have only one place where they are required to go for everything. (As an example, student addresses are currently maintained 17 different places on campus.)

Vice Provost Unger also wanted faculty members to be aware of an issue that is occurring at the University of Kansas. Students at KU have developed a ten question faculty evaluation / assessment that is to be programmed as a portlet on the KU portal. The results of this online evaluation would be made public to all students. Students at K-State have approached her about the possibility of doing something similar here. She is trying to obtain additional information regarding this from officials at the University of Kansas, and will get back to FSCOT when she knows more details. There was also some discussion of how to administer standard TEVALs via the Internet, since TEVALs and other "assessment" protocols are beginning to consume substantial amounts of in-class time. This will be a topic for a future FSCOT meeting.

FSCOT member Rintoul posed some questions as to why the final E-mail Enhancement Project requirements document included recommendations for instant messaging and groupware solutions when there seemed to be little support for those items during the requirements gathering meetings and in the survey results. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that instant messaging might be beneficial for certain groups or individuals, but is likely not something desired by everyone on campus. Perhaps providing IM to only those who truly need it could be a means to keep costs down. Vice Provost Unger promised to look into these concerns.

Haddock polled the committee as to whether they wished to meet January 15th. The Spring Semester does not begin until January 22nd. It was decided that FSCOT would not meet in January unless a pressing issue arose. The next FSCOT meeting will be Thursday, February 5th at 2:00 PM in Union 205.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.