Engineering Student Technology Committee

Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2004
Dean's Conference Room, 8:00am

Present: Bryce Eldridge (ECE), Ryan Fleming, *chair* (CE), Mike Floren (ChemE),
    Doug Hopper (ME), Amanda Kaiser (ME), Prof. Kevin Lear (ECE), David Miller (ChemE),
    Mark Ritschard (ENS), Heidi Shray (ECE), Dr. Tom Siller (Academic Affairs)

Absent: Prof. David Alciatore (ME), David Bryant (ME), Prof. Jeff Collett (Atmos),
    Henrik Forsling (CE), Kendra Gabbert (CE), Klaus Hartinger (ECE),
    Derek Johnson (ChemE), Russ Schumacher (Atmos), Luke Van Roekel (Atmos),
    Prof. David Wang (ChemE), Civil Engineering faculty (*unfilled*),
    Intra-departmental undergraduate (*two unfilled*)

Review of Meeting Minutes
    The minutes of the meeting on September 22nd were accepted with the correction that
Bryce Eldridge was present. One typo was also fixed.

Microsoft Office on the Virtual Lab
    Members of the committee have received some complaints regarding the disappearance
of Microsoft Office from the virtual lab system. Some of the problems include installation
issues, incompatibility with Microsoft file formats, and other miscellaneous problems. Someone
suggested again that if there are enough complaints, the committee might reconsider paying
Microsoft the licensing fee. Dr. Siller pointed out that spending $100,000 on this license would
be equivalent to closing a lab with 50 computers in it (e.g. the Anderson Lab), which would be
far more detrimental to the students in general. The point was also made that $100,000 is about
20% of the total budget, and that is a very large chunk to be spending on one product. One
alternative was to ask the departments to help pay for the cost of the license, but it was agreed
that this course of action was unlikely at best. In conclusion, the committee stood firm in its
decision to remove Microsoft Office from the virtual lab system in favor of Star Office.

Lab Security
    The committee discussed some general security issues in the building, including missing
chairs and missing paper from the printers. We discussed the possibility of buying security
equipment, which would be a legitimate use of ESTC funds, but no actual equipment has been
stolen in several years, and the expense probably would not be justified. Also, installing
expensive security cameras would just give the miscreants another item to steal. The general
consensus was that everyone in the college needs to be more aware of security issues on a daily
basis. Also, ENS will try to secure the printers further. On a slight tangent, a replacement card
reader for the LMDS is in the mail right now.

Slide Scanner Placement

A suggestion was brought before the committee that one of the photo slide scanners be moved from Lockheed to the Anderson lab in order to better serve the needs of students. One of the reasons included the fact that Anderson is less busy and would provide better access to the scanner. These photo scanners are special use scanners, so moving one would not impact the total scanning ability of the LMDS. The committee voted unanimously to move the scanner.

Bulletin Board in Labs

The suggestion was made to put a bulletin board at the entrance to every lab, so that people do not have to post signs on the walls or the doors, where they get torn down because it is technically against CSU policy to post something that is not on a bulletin board. However, bulletin boards are not an allowed use of ESTC funds, so the committee decided to get a cost estimate and then investigate funding options afterwards.

Print Credit Review

Ritschard handed out graphs showing the percentage of students who have to buy more print credits each month. There was a long discussion about the details of the print credit system, including the following topics. Some of the reasons for an increase in the number of students who run out of print credits are that professors are not paying as much for their students' copies anymore, professors post more notes on the web, which students then have to download and print on their own, and the fact that printing here is cheaper than Kinko's. The committee discussed whether the current amount of print credits and the current price for additional print credits is still appropriate, and we decided that it was. Fleming asked how much paper we recycle every day, and Ritschard pointed out that before the print credit system, the big boxes in the Anderson Lab would fill up every day with waste paper. The discussion concluded with the fact that the purpose of the print credit system is to encourage students to think about how much they are printing, not to make money. The committee finally decided that the system is good for now, and that no changes will be made.

Lab Entry Stats - tabled for the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: October 27th.

Submitted by
Bryce Eldridge