

## Engineering Student Technology Committee

Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2005  
Lockheed Martin Design Studio, 8:00am

Present: Prof. David Alciatore (ME), Bryce Eldridge (ECE), Ryan Fleming, *chair* (CE), Henrik Forsling (CE), Doug Hopper (ME), Derek Johnson (ChemE), Prof. Kevin Lear (ECE), Mark Ritschard (ENS), Prof. David Wang (ChemE)

Absent: David Bryant (ME), Prof. Jeff Collett (Atmos), Mike Floren (ChemE), Prof. Darrell Fontane (CE), Kendra Gabbert (CE), Klaus Hartinger (ECE), Amanda Kaiser (ME), David Miller (ChemE), Heidi Shray (ECE), Russ Schumacher (Atmos), Dr. Tom Siller (Academic Affairs), Luke Van Roekel (Atmos), Intra-departmental undergraduate (*two unfilled*)

### Review of UCFT Meeting

Eldridge gave a brief report on the recent UCFT meeting. The important points included the committee's decisions to support a unified scholarship structure and to allow a portion of the budget for a project to be spent on furnishings.

### Scholarships

Tabled for now.

### Budget

Ritschard explained the equipment budget worksheet to the committee. There were many clarification points including the following:

- Around \$5000 is received from the sale of old equipment each year
- The money allocated each year is spent during the summer

The committee then went through lab by lab and discussed any changes that could be made. First there was much discussion about the Anderson lab. By removing the thin clients that are currently funded and replacing them with PCs, the cost would go up ~\$3000. Johnson suggested putting a color printer in the lab, which would cost ~\$925.

The point was made that thin clients are a good deal because they have very low maintenance costs. Also, Microsoft Office will be back on the thin clients soon.

Hopper made the suggestion that the committee consider replacing some of the thin clients in the internet cafe with PCs, but the committee felt that this is not necessary at this time, since the Internet Cafe is primarily for low-performance computing such as internet and word processing.

Johnson suggested that the lifetime of the thin clients be change to five years to decrease costs, but the point was made that this would also increase the time between server support upgrades, so this suggestion was withdrawn.

There was some discussion about what would be ideal in a thin client. One of the big problems with them now is that there is no way to get files on or off the device. A USB port

would be very helpful, since many students have USB flash drives. The newer thin clients come with USB support and also a better graphics card, which would help improve performance.

Finally, the committee made some decisions regarding the budget. Johnson moved to fund a color printer in the Anderson Lab. Alciatore seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Alciatore then moved to change all thin clients in the Anderson Lab to PCs, which would bring the total number of computers in the lab to 73. This would leave eight unsupported seats, but would have no impact on the budget. Eldridge seconded, and the motion passed with eight votes for and one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned with the invitation to stay for comments on the new academic village.

Next Meeting: TBD

Submitted by  
Bryce Eldridge