Meeting Minutes for Engineering Student Technology Committee

Meeting: 25 February 2010
             7:45am in Titan

Attending: Leah Belval (ECE), Mark Berrill (ECE), Ross Davenport (CE), Hannah Hudson, *chair* (ME),
        Rachel McCrary (ATS), Katie Marshall (CBE), Syndi Nettles-Anderson (ME) , Nick Parazoo (ATS), Mark
        Ritschard (ENS), Steve Rosnowski (CE), Nick Sansoni (CE), Kevin Warner (ME) ,

Not Attending: Prof. Tom Bradley (ME), Prof. Brian Bledsoe (CE), Prof. Thom Chen (ECE), Ryan Friese
        (ECE), Prof. Taka Ito (ATS), Prof. Ashok Prasad (CBE), Prof. Tom Siller (Academic Affairs), Derek
        Williams (intra)

Guests Attending: Dr. John Williams (ME professor, for ERC design studio) and Jesse Parker (ENS
        Student Lab Supervisor, for food and drink policy)

-Meeting time (7:45 am on Thursdays) is a suitable time for people

-Review of 3 Dec meeting minutes
        Unanimous approval

-Review of ERC design studio funding
        Ritschard presents original budget and stipulations for the committee funding the room and
indicated a need to review the requirements for room renovations, especially carpet and painting.
        Motion to remove previous stipulations
        Unanimous approval
        Williams comments that they will still put in carpet and paint despite the committee's vote

-Review of ESTC policy regarding loaner laptops (per CBE student request)
        Hudson presents the request: CBE would like the committee to purchase a loaner laptop
specifically for their department and currently ESTC does not fund this
        Marshall reports on the situation; that the department has this loaner laptop to check to people
(groups of students, work groups, visiting professors, etc.) and it is in terrible shape
        Ritschard discusses the 13 loaner laptops ENS has (reason ESTC does not fund department
laptops). They can be reserved and taken anywhere, it is rare that there is not at least one available.
        Katie Marshall will talk to the department about if/why the ENS laptops would not be
appropriate and report back at the next meeting
        Current decision is to deny the request and keep the policy as it is

-Policy on Professors paying to use Virtual Lab
        Ritschard presents the background on virtual lab; it is for access to lab software while students
are traveling or at home and need to access engineering software. Virtual lab is paid for entirely by the

students so if a faculty member wants to use it they are required to pay. The college has made no investment in virtual lab so if they want access they need to pay for it

     Labadie wants access to virtual lab for a distance learning class he is teaching and he does not feel he should pay and he would only be on it for a month to get his students set up on it.

Vote to keep the policy in place and not allow any faculty access without paying

     Unanimous approval

-Current food/drink policy in college of engineering labs

     Ritschard presents background regarding the new enforcement of no food/drink policy: Based on feedback from students who wanted the labs to be cleaner, Dan Herrick decided to start consistently enforcing the no food/drink policy. This has led to many upset students and a lot of time spent arguing. It also creates uncomfortable situations for the students who are enforcing this.

     Ritschard discusses the options: If the policy is reversed it costs the committee more money to clean and replace damaged things than to pay another student to enforce the policy, though it lowers the headache considerably.

     Committee discusses that there is not good commons area for groups to eat and work together as well as the time demands requiring that people do both at the same time. The issue of some people wanting a clean area to work in not being available for them if people leave food trash everywhere, this seems unfair. The committee overall would rather be allowed to have food/drink in the labs.

     Parker, the student lab supervisor for ENS, discusses the situation, there are people who want to eat in the lab and leave it messy which is hard on the people who would rather follow the rule and have a work space. It seems as though more people would rather eat and drink the in the labs. Allowing food and drink makes the clean up considerably worse.

     Davenport would rather pay extra in student fees to have someone to clean the carpets and pick up the labs in order to be allowed to have food.

     Ritschard says that he and Herrick would prefer to relax the policy because students don't follow it and don't seem to want it. In particular, they believe it is hard to enforce because the college has 24-hour access to computer labs.

     Committee suggests that more trash and recycling cans be placed in the labs as well as Clorox wipes and paper towels to help people clean up little messes on their own.

     Motion to overturn the no food/drink policy

     Unanimous approval