

## Meeting Minutes for Engineering Student Technology Committee

Meeting: 1 April 2010

*Attending:* Leah Belval (ECE), Mark Berrill (ECE), Prof. Brian Bledsoe (CE), Ross Davenport (CE), Hannah Hudson, *chair* (ME), Rachel McCrary (ATS), Mark Ritschard (ENS), Steve Rosnowski (CE), Nick Sansoni (CE), Kevin Warner (ME), Derek Williams (intra)

*Not Attending:* Prof. Tom Bradley (ME), Prof. Tom Chen (ECE), Ryan Friese (ECE), Prof. Taka Ito (ATS), Katie Marshall (CBE), Syndi Nettles-Anderson (ME), Nick Parazoo (ATS), Prof. Ashok Prasad (CBE), Prof. Tom Siller (Academic Affairs)

*-Review of 11 March 2010 Minutes*  
Unanimous approval

*-Changes to CFT Manual Regarding Assistive Technology Fee*  
Hudson reviews the proposal. Changing from a tax levied based on technology fee revenue to a one based on student population within the college  
Unanimous approval of the proposal.

*-Lockheed Martin funds*  
College has \$40,000 to be spent  
Ritschard discusses working with UTFAB and UFAB to make changes to the Lockheed labs and that this is a good opportunity for the committee to get some work done.  
Herrick via Ritschard proposes taller partitions (similar to those in Orion) for Magellan because it is so noisy.  
Committee feels that in general it is accepted that Magellan is noisy and if a quiet study place is desired there are other ones.

*-Strategic Initiative Funds*  
Approximately \$90,000 in the fund, this would be a good time to consider a big project.  
Ritschard/Hudson will make sure a email gets sent to students and faculty as a call for proposals, committee wants student input because this is ultimately their money  
Possibilities proposed by the committee: different furniture, double monitors for some of the computers, and fix up the BC Infill

*-Students in Atmos requested better loaner laptops*  
McCrary and Berrill think there would be interest in having more equipment available at the foothill campus for the ERC and Atmos students and that it would be heavily utilized.

*-Volunteers for Sun Ray Testing*  
Ritschard reports on the state of the Sun Rays. He believes they can be a good option for students. Had ENS employees work only with Sun Rays for a month and they were able to discover main problems and some methods of improvements (PC quality).  
The windows performance is limited because Windows itself is not optimized for a multi-user set up  
DLLs load for every person in windows where as in Unix they load once  
The main slow down is the disk IO  
Sun Ray servers use a Cool Threads processor (32 threads) and a lot of software (particularly Fire Fox) is single threaded and this mismatch really lowers the clock speed  
Sun Rays may never be super good for running computation intense programs though their functionality can be improved  
Solid State disks would increase the speed as well as having more, smaller processors and putting fewer users on them  
Keist and Herrick via Ritschard want to know if the committee would be on board with improvements  
Committee in general is open to giving the Sun Rays another chance because they are very cost efficient  
Improvements would be coming in the summer and it is possible that we could get better use out of the Sun Rays at about the same cost  
Would anyone be willing to volunteer for testing the new system?

*-Engineering Email for Students*  
Ritschard took a proposal to the Engineering Internal Advisory Panel to stop paying for email. The panel objected strongly, they would like to keep email services and perhaps make it better  
The const increase to keep the email and to improve it would be approximately \$2000-3000 a year  
Berrill and McCrary think graduate students are most connected to the email and would like to keep it  
It is possible to keep it for graduate students and do a phase out for undergraduates.  
Ritschard will put together all of the budgetary considerations for different scenarios of handling the email situation