

## Meeting Minutes for Engineering Student Technology Committee (ESTC)

**Meeting:** 7 February 2011  
4:00pm in Anderson Studio 1

**In Attendance:** Professor Thomas Birner (Atmos), Professor Tom Chen (ECE), Anthony Navarro (ECE), Nick Riedel (ME), Mark Ritschard (ENS Director, *ex officio*), Kevin Warner, *chair* (ME), Dalton Young (ECE)

**Not In Attendance:** Leah Belval (ECE), Professor Brian Bledsoe (CEE), Ross Davenport (CEE), Dan Jones (ATS), Katie Marshall (CBE), Rachel McCrary (ATS), Professor. Ketul Popat (ME), Professor Ashok Prasad (CBE), Professor Tom Siller (ADAA, *ex officio*), Derek Williams (IM), secretary ,

**Guest:** Dan Herrick (ENS)

### -Budget Considerations

Since the overhaul of the Sun Servers initiated by the committee last year, certain applications no longer functioned properly on the Sunrays. As a solution, 4 servers were taken from the Thin Farm and are currently being used as Legacy servers (info on Legacy Apps can be found here: <http://www.engr.colostate.edu/ens/info/classrooms/legacy.html>). The question raised was whether the committee was willing to fund these 4 servers permanently, at a total cost of \$3000 per year (assuming a 4 year replacement cycle). It is also important to note that these servers are also used for rapid-deployment situations because it is much easier to update one of these servers than to update the entire thin farm. It is important to note that these legacy apps are available on Windows desktop computers, the issue is only with the Sunray environment.

The committee discussed how to approach the use of these legacy applications. There are only 6 of them and only one is widely used (Aspen is used by all CBE undergrads). The committee came to a consensus that while it is acceptable now, we do not want it to be a long term solution. We will be requesting justification from the instructors using the different pieces of software and will hopefully be able to discuss these justifications in a future meeting.

### -Engineering II Support

The committee was shown the basic floor plans for the upcoming Engineering II building which is set to break ground in May of this year. The new building will feature multiple student labs, two electronic classrooms, four design studios, an ENS help desk and one group study area. In particular, the committee will need to decide the extent of support funded for these areas. One of the biggest considerations would be to centralize printing for the graduate student lab. The total annual cost for supporting the new building would amount to \$38,879.

The committee discussed the ways in which we can improve the cost effectiveness and efficiency for grad student computing. In particular, supporting enhanced distributed and cloud computing environments. Discussion about the funding of labs and electronic classrooms was also discussed.

Discussion on this issue will continue at future meetings to determine the extent of funding.

### -Engineering II Budget Shortfall

The new building has a budget shortfall and is seeking potential funding from the committee's pool. The committee's spending is restricted as to what we are allowed to purchase; in particular we can only fund equipment. Approximately \$2.5 million in equipment will be purchased for Engineering II. The committee can potentially fund up to this amount. At this time, the committee will have \$60k in

additional funding per year as a result of increased enrollment throughout the College of Engineering. This additional funding leaves us with approximately \$75k/year to spend. Over the next four years these additional funds add up to about \$300k. Additional funding can be achieved by making cuts to departmental funding for an additional \$50k per year. This could potentially add up to \$500k in student funding for Engineering II over the coming years.

The committee was in support of funding Engineering II, but the extent of funding will need to be discussed in the future. Particularly when it comes to making cuts to department budgets, the committee wished to review each department's budget over the last few years to determine who (if anyone) can afford cuts.