

## Meeting Minutes of the Engineering Student Technology Committee (ESTC)

**Meeting:** 28 February 2011  
4:00pm in Anderson Computer Lab

**In Attendance:** Leah Belval (ECE), Professor Thomas Birner (ATS), Professor Brian Bledsoe (CEE), Dan Herrick (ENS, substituting for Mark Ritchard, *ex officio*), Dan Jones (ATS), Katie Marshall (CBE), Anthony Navarro (ECE), Trevor Pier (ME), Professor Ashok Prasad (CBE), Nick Riedel (ME), Chair Kevin Warner (ME), Secretary Derek Williams (IM), Dalton Young (ECE)

**Not In Attendance:** Professor Tom Chen (ECE), Ross Davenport (CEE), Rachel McCrary (ATS), Professor Ketul Popat (ME), Mark Ritschard (ENS Director, *ex officio*), Professor Tom Siller (ADAA, *ex officio*)

### -Extended hours for ENS Help Desk

A proposal was presented to extend the hours of the ENS help desk by creating hours during the weekends and adding hours during the weekdays. The existing hours are 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday. ENS Help Desk hours were compared to the hours of the library's IT help desk

Concern was brought up specifically over what services are being improved by extending help desk hours and how much this would cost. Concern was also expressed regarding how many students would benefit and use the additional hours offered.

Approximately \$4,000-5,000 per year would cover the addition of one day over the weekend based on current wages for student employees.

The committee came to the conclusion that additional costs would not justify the foreseeable benefits.

### -ASCE Vending Machine Fundraising

The ASCE has made a request to place vending machines in the Magellan computer lab to raise money.

Concerns were raised by the committee about whether these machines would be supported by various other committees across campus. ASCE representatives informed us their proposal had already been declined by other campus committees.

The principal concern was whether the ESTC would support machines if they gained approval from the other necessary groups.

### -Legacy Applications

Six legacy applications were discussed at the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. These programs are older ones and are not compatible with the newer version of Windows. At the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was decided more information regarding the usage of these applications would be required in order to further assess their necessity.

Chair Warner contacted members of different departments to assess the individual applications' necessity to the respective departments' curriculum. These individuals made it clear that the programs *Sigma*, *Arena*, and *CSUDP* were either non-vital or in the process of being updated. The program *Design of Machinery* is used in one course (MECH324) and is installed in the Machines Lab, which is the only location the program is used during the course. The program, *Aspen*, was determined to be a vital part of the CBE curriculum. The program *TK Solver* had not been assessed as of this meeting.

It was expressed by members of the committee that *Aspen* and *TK Solver* were the two most important applications. At least two servers are needed to operate these programs of the four legacy servers currently used. It was suggested that two of the servers be removed. However, without detailed information on the impact this may have, it was suggested that at first one server be removed. It was then decided one server would be temporarily removed to determine the impact it would have.

#### **-Engineering II discussion**

As a continuation of the discussion from the February 7th meeting, fundraising for Engineering II was discussed. It was suggested that the ESTC potentially fund approximately \$500,000 to the Engineering II project over the course of the next two years. Mark Ritschard has spoken with department heads over specific dollar amounts.

Concern was raised over what this money would go towards. It was explained that the money would fund ESTC-related item such as furniture, equipment, technology, etc.

It was then decided an exact dollar amount would be needed in order to make a further decision on the subject. In order to do this, it was decided that Mark Ritschard should make a proposal including specific items to be purchased with the proposed funds and their dollar amounts.

#### **-Loaner Laptop Policy Abuse**

It was brought to the committee's attention by ENS help desk manager, Lisa Metz, that some students have been abusing the loaner laptop privileges. Specifically, laptops are only allowed to be checked out for finite periods of time. These students have been checking out different laptops over and over again in order to have them for longer periods of time than allowed.

It was suggested to restrict the use of loaner laptops to students on a per-semester basis. The decision to allow revisions to the loaner laptop policy was unanimously approved.