Meeting minutes of the Engineering Student Technology Committee (ESTC)
Meeting: December 7, 2015
        4:30 p.m. in Scott 203 Board Room

In attendance: Sean Brustuen (CE), Jordyn Dahlke (ME), Daniel Dauwe (ECE, Chair), Kristine Fischenich (SBME), Professor Ben Gadomski (ME), Arunachalam Lakshminarayanan (ME), Peter Marinescu (ATS), Kelley Wittmeyer (ENS, ex officio)

Not in attendance: Elaheh Alizadeh (CBE), Abdullah BaGais (CBE), Zachary Bodmer (CBE), Professor Emily Fischer (ATS), Chaz Myers (CE), Professor Brian Munsky (CBE), Professor Peter Nelson (CE), Erik Nielsen (ATS), Brad Reichel (CE), Professor Sourajeet Roy (ECE), Professor Tom Siller (ADAA, ex officio), Aaron Smull (ECE)

Guests: Angie Branson (ENS), CJ Keist (ENS), Ryan Medhurst (ENS)

Approval of meeting minutes (11/16/15)
        The meeting minutes from 11/16/15 were approved.

Announcements
        Wittmeyer announced the need for an undergraduate student representative to volunteer to serve on the College of Engineering Technology Committee (CETC). The undergraduate student must be appointed by ESTC, but need not be a current member of the ESTC. Sean Brustuen volunteered to serve.

Virtual Lab/Thin Farm -> Virtual Classroom: resource abuse quantifications

        Medhurst discussed some issues being seen with usage of the Virtual Classroom. There have been instances of one individual or several individuals "hogging" server resources while running large simulations. This causes varying degrees of poor system performance for others trying to use those resources.

        Currently, if Medhurst notices these types of overuse on the Virtual Lab, he will send a notice to the student warning them that their process will be terminated unless they reduce usage, then he will check back in on it in a day or two, if the overuse is minor. If the student is using a very large amount of resources, which noticeably slow the system for anyone else, he terminates the processes immediately and notifies the student(s). He also redirects the student(s) to more appropriate resources, such as the Windows Compute Cluster.

        There are also concerns regarding misuse of software licenses for research when the software license agreements specifically prohibits this usage. The Virtual Classroom resources are specifically meant to support classroom-related activities and not research activities due to these software licensing restrictions.

        ENS would like confirmation from the ESTC that these issues are a concern that should be addressed and a set policy from for how to handle these situations. The committee sought advice on what parameters should be set and Medhurst specifically requested guidelines on parameters that could be set and enforced.

The committee decided to define the policy as follows:

The Virtual Classroom is a limited resource and should not be used for running processes that consume an excessive amount of CPU or RAM. For processes that have a minor impact on system performance: greater than 30% after 60 minutes, the user will receive a warning via e-mail. If the user has an active session, a pop-up warning will be sent. For processes having a severe impact on server performance: greater than 40% for greater than 15 minutes, the users' processes will be killed immediately.

A motion was made to set a new policy using the above statement as a guideline for resolving issues of Virtual Classroom system resource overuse. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Proposal

Powerhouse student computers – Mac McGoldrick submitted a proposal for one-time funding for a student computer lab located at the Powerhouse. The committee had many questions about the proposal, so no decision was made on funding the proposal. The committee will ask Mac McGoldrick to complete the standard proposal submission form and provide additional information.

There was discussion of hosting the next ESTC meeting at the Powerhouse and having a tour. Arunachalam was asked to assist with scheduling a meeting room in January.

Internet Cafe Redesign

Wittmeyer spoke with Dan Herrick regarding questions that the committee raised at the last meeting. Dan Herrick provided some clarification of what can be funded out of the CFT funds and what the intent of this project was:
- What will the ESTC pay for in redesign? Very little, but would include additional thin clients, it was intended for the ESTC to spearhead the initiative but not be the primary funding source.
- Alternate sources of funding: UFFAB and departments within the College of Engineering. The departments were agreeable, but reluctant to commit to funding when approached.
- How reliable was the cost estimate for the remodel? The budget opinion from Facilities was from March 2015 and expired in June. The committee would need to get an updated quote/budget opinion from Facilities, Jesse Parker could assist with this.

There was discussion of what course of action should be taken. The committee decided to form a small sub-committee to pursue the funding. A motion was made to continue with efforts on the internet café redesign. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Internet Café Redesign sub-committee will initially include Dauwe and Fischenich, with guidance from Wittmeyer. The sub-committee will look into requesting funding from UFFAB and consider splitting the remodel over a series of years. Dauwe will send out an email to the committee informing them of the decision to proceed and seeking volunteers. The subcommittee will meet separately and report back to the ESTC.

IT Consolidation and Centralized Printing

Dean of Libraries, Pat Burns, is looking to consolidate IT and Centralized Printing. If printing were consolidated, Papercut would continue to be used across the university. Information has been gathered from all of the colleges. The ESTC discussed joining the university print system and at that time, was determined that it would cost Engineering students more to print than was currently being charged. Merging of email services has also been under discussion. Dr. Burns would like to see all students moved over to O365 so that students, faculty, and staff would be on the same calendaring/email system.