Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC)

AGENDA
9:00, December 8, 2011 in EPC 304C

Members in Attendance: Peggy Beranek, Radu Cascaval, Ed Chow, Jan Kemper, Kirk Moore, Scott Switzer, Jerry Wilson, Regina Winters

UPDATES

1. IT – Jerry Wilson
   a. Jerry has divided the **IT strategic planning** committee into several subgroups: Instructional Technology, Infrastructure, Communication, Web Services, Services and Support, and Outreach. Chairs have been assigned to each subgroup, and committee members have volunteered to serve on each. ITAC members are welcome to join as well. Subgroups will be meeting individually. A draft is due by mid-January.
   b. **Social Media Free Zones** are being created in the Library as part of a research project being conducted by Rory Lewis. Computer usage will be tracked. David offered the reminder that there has been a request to have SPSS available on some of those computers.
   c. **Mediasite lecture capture studios** will be built in IT, the TLC, Dwire Hall, and University Hall. Equipment is on hand, and studio design is in progress. Users will have support from production savvy students. The plan is to go live by next fall semester.
2. Blackboard – David Anderson
   a. **Schedule for spring courses**:
      i. courses created – Dec 1
      ii. instructors enrolled – Dec 5
      iii. enroll students – Dec 15
      iv. planned upgrade – Dec 27 (but we're testing out the new service pack and its hot fixes on the Test server first)
   b. Reminders:
      i. **Guest Instructor** role: Bb instructors can request that colleagues be added to their courses as guest instructors. Guest instructors can see all course content, but have no authoring privileges. Send requests to your Bb college administrator.
      ii. **Add a Test Student**: Bb instructors can enroll themselves as a student in their courses. Click on Control Panel > Course Tools > Add a Test Student
3. Campus Online Task Force – David Anderson
   a. Up and running:
      i. online degree completion programs
      ii. Front Desk: Cherwell will go live next Wednesday
      iii. UCCS Online web pages: installing new chat software

  b. Working on improvements:
   i. online application process
   ii. early access for new hires
  c. New projects:
   i. Blackboard training
   ii. course evaluation

NEW BUSINESS
1. **Synchronous collaboration** tool
   - We are currently using three different collaboration tools on campus: Adobe Connect Pro, Elluminate, and eLecta
   - **We need to avoid** what happened with LMSs: having to support several different systems, and more importantly, students having to learn several different platforms.
   - Blackboard bought both Elluminate and Wimba, and has incorporated those technologies into its Collaborate module, which includes instant messaging, voice authoring, and the webinar interface. A **huge advantage** to Collaborate is that it is built seamlessly into Blackboard. All instructors and students would have access to it with a single sign on.
   - We will invite Blackboard to give a **demonstration** on campus, hopefully over break. Prior to then, David will contact the current users of the other tools in order to compile what we feel are our needs, and will pass those along to the Blackboard rep prior to the demonstration.
   - We have yet to establish a **timeframe** for this, but one consideration is that eLecta's license comes up for renewal in spring. We will do our best to make a decision by then, but it could conceivably take longer.
2. Blackboard Outcomes Assessment
   - Another Blackboard component we are investigating as a possible replacement for our current assessment process is its Outcomes Assessment module. This would provide robust assessment reporting at course, unit, college, and campus levels. Jerry is working with David Moon and Lynne Calhoun to initiate a dialog with Blackboard.
3. Smart Classrooms
   - IT is requesting that a committee of smart classroom instructors be formed to discuss the future of smart classroom technology: what should we keep, what can we discard, and what might we create? Scott noted some interest in Skype. David will email ITAC members for suggested members of this committee. We hope to have a pilot plan by summer.
4. MatLab – Ed Chow
   - MatLab is a high-level interactive environment for performing computationally intensive tasks for a wide range of applications, including signal and image processing, communications, test and measurement, financial modeling and analysis, and computational

biology, among others. It is being used across several colleges for both teaching and research, and is installed in all the computer labs. Currently the license is being paid by Math, CS, ECE, MAE, and NISSSC. The request on the table is for the **campus to provide funding** for this software.

- Jerry noted that this sort of request has arisen in the past – citing SPSS – and suggested that ITAC initiate a discussion to **define the process** by which these decisions are made. Should proposals be submitted? Can we create a set of criteria by which they are evaluated?
- Jerry will put together some suggestions for our next meeting; members should give him input in the interim.

Next meeting: 9:00, February 9, 2012 in EPC 304C