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Information Technology Committee

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IT Committee Minutes
Friday, October 16 at 3:00 pm in 219 Rike Hall

Present: Barbara Denison, RSCoB; Dan DeStephen, CTL; Mary Clem, CaTS; Shelley Jagow, COLA; T.K. Prasad, CECS; Sheila Shellabarger, Library; Sherrill Smith, CONH; Maggie Veres, CEHS

I. Quadrennial Review The Quadrennial Review Committee has asked all committees to look at their function and composition as stated in the Faculty Constitution. The constitution is online at <http://www.wright.edu/academics/fhandbook/constitution.html>. We have had one request for a change. The University Registrar has asked to be added as an ex-officio, non-voting member. Sherrill Smith moved and Maggie Veres seconded a motion to add the Registrar as ex-officio, non-voting member and the motion passed unanimously. There were no other changes proposed.

II. CaTS Updates - Paul Hernandez and Mary Clem

1) Safe Connect for wireless access

Mary Clem explained that the Safe Connect software will be asking users to authenticate with their user name and password when using the wireless access on campus. This had been done in the past but was discontinued due to software problems.

To ensure WSU's network is not being used by non-affiliated individuals, CaTS will re-establish authentication requirements on all wireless networks on campus. This change will take effect on November 24, 2009.

After the authentication system is activated, anyone wishing to use the wireless network will be required to enter their CAMPUS username and password. When attempting to connect wirelessly the user will be presented with a browser window (Internet Explorer or Firefox for example). The user must then enter their username and password to gain access to the network. Once authenticated, the user will have access to the wireless network for approximately 23 hours before authentication is again required.

Shelley Jagow had inquired about the limited wireless access in the Creative Arts Center. Larry Fox replied by email that "The Creative Arts center only has a couple of access points in the building. The reason that it was not completely done is that it was part of the final phase of wireless on campus and it was not funded. When we do the complete renovation of CAC it will include wireless for the entire building."

Dan DeStephen recommended also raising this issue with the University Building and Grounds Committee. It is inconvenient when students and faculty with laptops are unable to get wireless access in the classrooms.

2) New web Virtual Private Networks (VPN) procedure

In order to make it easier to enable VPN access, CaTS has developed a new process that allows authorized users to securely connect to the WSU data network from the campus wireless network or from off campus using various commercial Internet Service Providers (ISPs) (e.g., MSN, AOL, Roadrunner, SBC, etc.). Using the VPN, wireless and remote users are connected to the university's internal network as if they were directly connected to the campus network. This allows WSU wireless and remote users to access servers and other devices restricted to WSU network users and isolated from the outside. In addition, a VPN connection from a computer that has a Novell client allows the user to access all network files (Home H: and shared drives K:). To setup access, visit <http://www.wright.edu/cats/vpn2/>

In the past, to get the VPN client, a faculty or staff member would have to call CaTS for the access. All faculty and staff will have rights to obtain the new web VPN client. Students will still need to make a request. Specific Banner access needs separate approval. If committee members want to try the pilot version, go to www.wright.edu/cats/vpn2. Let Mary Clem know how it works. T.K. Prasad reported a separate problem and

Mary Clem will have CaTS follow up.

3) VPN with wireless connections to Novell servers

Due to the requirements of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS), Wright State University is now required to limit access to sensitive data from the wireless network unless that access is via a secure connection. To remain compliant with the PCI-DSS standard, access to servers that contain sensitive data will require the use of a Virtual Private Network connection (VPN), which encrypts all communication. The above change will not affect individuals who utilize the wireless network to access the internet or to access servers housed on departmental networks, and access to public services on registered servers (WINGS, etc) will not be affected. Those using wired connections will be unaffected by this change. For more information on the procedure to connect via VPN please see the VPN link listed in item 2. This change will take effect on November 24, 2009.

4) Reporting problems in the Electronic Classrooms

CaTS is adding an electronic classroom problem reporting form. The form is now available under the Wings Resource Center – Faculty Zone, but once implemented, there will be an icon on the desktop on the computers in the electronic classrooms. Mary Clem demonstrated the form. This will not replace phone reporting of problems but does add another way to note problems that may involve CaTS, CTL, the Registrar or Physical Plant. Mary reported that a problem ticket will be created and the person submitting the problem will be informed of the outcome. □□

III. Semester Technology Conversion Committee Update

Course approval workflow update from Terry Anderson of CaTS, “We received some requests for changes from the core team and UCAP just this week and are working to get those implemented before rolling those out. The plan/hope is to deploy in the "save & share" mode by the end of next week. We are still deciding on when to actually deploy it in "workflow" mode but want to have as much shaken out during the "save & share" phase as possible. We're considering the Nov/Dec timeframe for actual Workflow distribution.” □□

IV. CTL Updates

Dan DeStephen reported that the university will be replacing WebCT. The current version, WebCT 4.1, is the 2003 version. Since then, Blackboard has purchased WebCT and Blackboard is on version 9.0. Effective January, 2011, there will be no more updates to WebCT 4.1. Another significant issue is that publisher course packs are not being developed for WebCT. A faculty committee has been established to research options and make a recommendation to the Provost. A group of CaTS and CTL technical staff are also looking at the implementation issues. It was determined that WSU has too many users for open source software. The two commercial course management systems under consideration are Blackboard and Desire2Learn. Blackboard purchased the Angel course management systems. Blackboard is much larger in the marketplace but Desire2Learn has some major customers including the Ohio State University and University of Wisconsin. A new system will be considerably more expensive. A new system will have many more features and services including portfolio management.

A survey was made available on Wings to get user feedback on features desired in a new learning management system. 1100 to 1200 replies were received.

The tentative timeline is an early winter purchase followed by backend testing. There may be a few pilot courses in spring with more in summer and even more in fall, 2010. It is anticipated that the new system will be the only system in use winter quarter, 2011. CTL is planning for lots of training. Currently 80% of the faculty are WebCT users.

Dan DeStephen also gave an update on the upcoming reorganization of CaTS and CTL. The Provost will announce when changes are effective.

V. University Library

Sheila Shellabarger reported on the changes since Fordham Library resources combined with the Dunbar Library. The second floor of Dunbar Library was successfully redesigned and if members haven't visited, stop by.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be announced winter quarter.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Denison