Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Learning & Technology Roundtable  
MINUTES - February 16, 2006  
2 p.m. – 3 p.m., ML 3012

Present:  Don Descy, Corinne Dickey, Jan Eimers, Jim Grabowska, Brian Groh, Elena Ivanova, Mark Johnson, Kent Kalm, Mark Kump, Peg Lawrence, Patricia Lipetzky, Roland Nord, Joan Roca, Warren Sandmann, Gerald Schneck, Steve Smith, Gary Urban, Steven Vassar, Robert Zelin  
Absent:  Gale Allen, Jane Baird, Ronald Browne, Daniel Cronn-Mills, James Dye, Nancy Geistfeld, David Gjerde, Catherine Hughes, Joel Jensen, Joan Klanderud, Stewart Ross, Wayne Sharp, Ben Weihrauch  
Guest:  Jeff Henline

Don Descy welcomed the group and requested updates and/or corrections to the agenda. There were none.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

1. Meetings this semester: (in ITS conference room ML-3012)
   3/2 (2-3:30); 3/23 (3-4:30); 4/6 (2-3:30); 4/13 (3-4:30); 5/4 (2-3:30)
   Don Descy mentioned that the meetings on March 23 and April 13 will be held from 3 p.m. – 4:30. The variance in time will allow some other members to attend the LTR meetings. Normally we should be done in one hour.

2. Simulation/Games subgroup meeting: 2/20 12-1, CSU-244
   Kent Kalm said that they are working on an alternate time for this meeting or possibly an additional meeting time. He will be discussing it with the group.

3. Faculty Exchange Series: “Around the table discussion” of Online Teaching, Thursday, 2/23 @ noon, Alumni Foundation Center, AF 238 - all welcome!
   This Thursday, a conference will be held at AF 238. It is an “Around the Table Discussion” and will deal with the topic of online teaching. Faculty will be sharing their successes and frustrations of online teaching. Lunch will be provided. An announcement will be sent out to the IFO, possibly yet today.

4. 2006 Minnesota E-Learning Summit, May 18-19, Augsburg College, MSP
   The call for papers deadline has passed. This annual conference provides an excellent opportunity. It is hoped that some members of the LTR will attend.

5. EDUCAUSE and AECT conferences: October 9-13, Dallas

Old Business

6. Approval of Minutes (2/2/06)
   A motion to approve the minutes of February 2nd was made by Jim Grabowska and seconded by Brian Groh. The minutes were approved without change.
7. **D2L issues & Update (Jeff H. & Mark J.)**

Jeff Henline reported that D2L is running smooth this semester. Version 8 is being released but will not be adopted by MnSCU right away. Leslie Blicker stated that the new version would be upgraded next winter break. Jeff is hoping to have a chance to review it over the summer months.

Jeff discussed the features of D2L that were turned off to make the program run faster. The events widget was disabled because it took about 75% of the CPU power. This particular feature allows the use of a calendar to add events. The chat feature could not be deleted but it is now more stable.

Currently MSU has about 800 D2L accounts set up and about 302 are active. If you need assistance in creating quizzes or loading course materials, the IT student assistants will help. There is a link on the website that you can use to request assistance. The response time is not identifiable because they are not sure how many will be using this feature. When you send the request, you will receive a response that will estimate the turnaround time for your request. There are approximately 844 courses being offered online this spring. That figure may be a bit low because some sections may be pooled into a single D2L course.

8. **Call for Proposals 2006-07 -- Extended Learning (Pat L.)**

See agenda item #13.

9. **Simulation/Games subgroup update (Kent K.)**

Kent Kalm informed that this group met on Monday with Vice President Olson. The Vice President provided the framework for this subgroup. He is focusing on three major aspects for this committee: 1) Faculty & Pedagogy, how to build in resources, 2) Student offerings in building games and simulations, and 3) Potential degree offered in Gaming Studies.

The sub group will be meeting again next Monday. They will discuss alternate meeting times. There is a great deal of excitement for this as it could put us on the leading edge of this emerging discipline.

If you are interested in joining this subgroup, it is never too late. The meetings are open. Please send your name to Kent Kalm if you are interested.

10. **Reps for Student LTR: (Don, Dave G., Roland N., and Brian G.)**

We are waiting for the names of the student representatives. The meetings will commence in approximately two weeks.

10a. **Other Old Business: Academic Integrity Subcommittee**

Jim Grabowska announced that the Academic Integrity Subcommittee has met to brainstorm and put together a university-wide survey that can be implemented. This survey will be aimed to gather input from faculty and students about their knowledge
of plagiarism and what information is needed. The surveys will be used to ensure that students have an opportunity to have their voices heard. The intent of this subcommittee is to make a recommendation in regard to Turnitin or another type of anti-plagiarism software.

Updates

11. Student LTR (James Dye)
   No Update

12. ITS/ETS (Mark J.)
   Mark Johnson joked that ITS did not receive any negative comments from the HLC Accreditation Team (interpretation: it seems they were very pleased with the technology on our campus...)

   Mark said that he and Pat Lipetzky have been participating in a MnSCU group for “Enterprise IT Planning”. Vice Chancellor Laura King has formed a group of CIOs, the Vice-Chancellors, and some deans to look at the IT enterprise and how it will move forward. The group is identifying future needs system-wide how to reinvest and appropriately on I.T. to support student and faculty demand. They still need to identify where the money will come from. More details will be available later; please feel free to contact Mark Johnson or Pat Lipetzky.

   This will be brought to the Leadership Council with all the Presidents and later go before the Board of Trustees on March 21, 2006. Mark Johnson feels that this has moved the issue forward but he is not sure that it has moved it far enough and has expressed so at the meetings.

13. Extended Learning (Pat L.)
   Pat Lipetzky announced that the Calls for Proposals for Extended Learning have been sent. These are available for those that want to enhance an online course that is already available or for those that are interested in beginning a new online program. Pat said that there is hope to have a large interest in this because if requests are numerous, there is a chance to increase the strategic funding next ear. There is an information session scheduled for February 27 from 3 – 4 p.m. in CSU 202 for people that are interested.

   Kent Kalm spoke of an online workshop, "Engaging Experience", which will be offered to faculty. This course will touch on different experiences of online teaching. Please sign up early to enable the ordering of books. Additional information will be sent.

14. MnOnline (Roland N. / Joan R.)
   No update.

15. COMET/METNET (Mark J.)
Mark Johnson distributed a draft brochure from COMET/METNET. This brochure explains the partnership and services that are provided. Mark is currently the chair of the COMET board. He attended a meeting on February 1st at Riverland. Many 2-year schools had representation and services available and suggestions to expand were discussed.

Mark explained that they are discussing how IT money can be used. COMET funding is coming from the Office of Higher Education. Currently COMET is pursuing adding IP bandwidth.

New Business
16. Technology Committees in Colleges – Update
   If your College or Division has a Technology Committee and/or a student advisory committee, please email Don Descy the name of the coordinator(s) and who was on them. It was also recommended that LTR minutes be shared with technology committees in the different colleges and units. In many cases the LTR can help address some issues that go beyond the college level.

17. ITS Update/Showcase: Assessment tools (Jeff H.)
   Jeff Henline showed a presentation regarding assessment tools that are available. [www.intech.mnsu.edu/assess/new/index.asp](http://www.intech.mnsu.edu/assess/new/index.asp) These assessment tools are already being used quite frequently in the School of Nursing. If you are interested in using this, please contact Jeff Henline. You are also encouraged to share this information with others in your department.

Other
   Joan Roca congratulated Jeff Henline and Elena Ivanova on the Open Series they provided in the Student Union. Jeff commented that it was slower than expected but all in all it was successful.

Meeting adjourned.