Announcements

1. **EDUCAUSE: Orlando, October 18-21, 2005.** [http://www.educause.edu](http://www.educause.edu)  
   *(Early-bird registration is 9/20)*  
   EDUCAUSE is a premier conference in higher education and technology. It offers a great learning experience for attendees. Peg Lawrence and Steven Vassar expressed interest in attending.

2. **AECT: Orlando, October 18-21, 2005.** [http://aect.org](http://aect.org)  
   This conference is taking place at the same time as EDUCAUSE. It also offers more about educational technology.

3. **ITeach Conference, Hennepin Tech College, November 3-5, 2005**  
   ITeach is a great opportunity to present to a state audience.

Old Business

4. **MSU Wireless & Teaching Technology Conference 2005 November 8, 2005**  
   "Creating Optimal Learning Environments" (Vicki Petersen)  
   Vicki Petersen joined the group to distribute some information items regarding the Wireless and Teaching Technology Conference being held on Tuesday, November 8. She stated that they have been working with Michael Cooper to get more PR. They have combined with the CETL to expand the base. This conference is MnSCU-wide and there are some presenters from Wisconsin. The call for presenters is due by October 7, 2005. Information and registration are available at [http://www.mnsu.edu/its/ets/online/wc05/index.html](http://www.mnsu.edu/its/ets/online/wc05/index.html)

5. **Turnitin - Update, status, and next steps (Jeff Henline)**  
   Jeff Henline told the group that the Turnitin license for MSU has been renewed for one year. It will expire the 3rd week of September 2006. Approximately 2,600 students used this last year. 85 instructors have been using it. We are currently only using about 10% of the license we have. Turnitin and other similar systems should be considered more as a deterrent system than one that spies on students work. The
reality is that most faculty do not submit every single paper every time but the possibility that they might would deter students from plagiarizing. There are two sides to how the intellectual property issue affects student work in this regard: on one side, there is a privacy issue with what may be stored in the database and on the other side a plagiarism prevention system assures that the original work is not copied later by someone else. There seem be some misunderstandings and we probably need to inform the campus better about what Turnitin does and how it does it.

A sub-group to review and make a recommendation on Turnitin will follow up with Carol Stallkamp. We would like to include student representation in this process as well. If you are interested in serving on this sub-group, please send your name to Don Descy or Joan Roca.

New Business
6. D2L issues - update and discussion (Jeff Henline - Mark Johnson)

Jeff Henline distributed a packet of messages and updates from MnSCU regarding D2L performance issues. Mark Johnson joined the group via telephone, since he was attending a CIO meeting at MnSCU to discuss D2L issues.

Jeff Henline stated that the D2L application and database was not designed to run with this many users. The system was not ready to deal with a group of this magnitude. D2L must reengineer their software. They receive approximately 1,200 queries per second or 40 million per day. The system is overloaded. They are trying to work with D2L to increase its efficiency. They may be looking to purchase larger servers but it would be quite costly. One idea being considered is to split the database and maintain several servers.

Mark Johnson requested that the LTR members discuss the impacts of D2L on our faculty and students. He asked if we could recommend ideas to implement change. He was meeting with the Vice Chancellor the next day and agreed that the D2L system must be stabilized and continue to be stable. We need to count on this to move ahead in the future.

Robert Zelin stated that he has implemented the course management system and is now an essential part of classroom technology. The system needs to be dependable because otherwise you cannot do quizzes or download information. These problems probably will continue to be with us for quite a few months.

We need to take quick action to remedy these problems otherwise people will not want to use D2L. Pat Lipetzky stated that there are 3 instances where people have taken parts of their classes off of D2L. Reaction needs to be quick because what happens in the short-term will effect the long-term.

Angela Monson questioned whether the main problems were with the chat or quiz features. She said that she receives error message pop ups and they can be annoying. Jeff Henline said that there isn’t a tool-specific problem it’s just how busy the server
is at the time. Jane Baird stated that there is trouble during her 11 o’clock class, which must be primetime.

Jeff Henline announced that they are doing their best to get the short-term issues fixed and try to gain a better strategy for the future. No promises can be made. A question was posed that if there are features that can be stripped away from D2L, would that help with the efficiency? Jeff stated that D2L is trying to thin down the tools to increase the speed.

If you want to talk with Mark Johnson about this or other topics, please contact Vicki Petersen to get an appointment scheduled.

7. ITS/ETS Showcase: Online assessment system (Jeff Henline)
   No report today.

8. Showcase presentations - review/prioritize
   A list of possible LTR presentations was distributed to the group. Please number your preferences in order of interest. Feel free to add demonstrations or cross out the ones that you are not interested in. This document will be collected at the next LTR meeting. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please mail this document back to Julie Dornack at ML 3097.

Final Updates
9. Student LTR
   This group has not met but will be meeting in the next week or two.

10. ITS/ETS
    Mark Johnson was not available at this time.

11. Extended Learning (Pat Lipetzky)
    Kent Kalm announced that 23 faculty members will begin the mentoring program next week. 36 members have signed up for online courses.

    The first edition of Teams, Tools, and Tips has been distributed in hard copy to the entire faculty. This document will be sent electronically bi-weekly.

    The first Faculty Exchange Series is scheduled for September 29th from 12 – 1 pm in SCU 204. This session will be facilitated by Ann Quade and will deal with Best Practices and Assessment in Online Education.

    An Online Brown Bag Discussion will be running from September 19 – September 30. This will promote active learning in an online course.

    The second run of t-shirts will be ready soon. T-shirts will be distributed at the next meeting.
12. MnOnline (Roland Nord / Joan Roca)
    No update.

13. Other
    Pat Lipetzky announced that the PSEO policy is up for informal review.

    Pat also stated that it is time to push and plan for summer session. Please let her know if you are interested in offering online classes for summer.

    Wayne Sharp announced that a new section of computers is now available in the Library. This seems to be a very popular area within the Library because it was only about 30 seconds after the caution tape was removed and the area was full of computer users.

    Jim Grabowska made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 1st meeting. Steven Vassar seconded. After a vote, the minutes were approved without correction.

    Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

    Respectfully submitted by: Julie Dornack