Minnesota State University, Mankato
Learning & Technology Roundtable
Thursday, September 29, 2005
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Gale Allen, Ron Browne, Don Descy, Corinne Dickey, James Dye, David Gjerde, Jim Grabowska, Brian Groh, Catherine Hughes, Elena Ivanova, Mark Johnson, Joan Klanderud, Mark Kump, Nina LeNoir, Patricia Lipetzky, Warren Sandmann, Gerald Schneck, Wayne Sharp, Gary Urban, Steven Vassar
Guests: Matt Clay, Scott Olson
Absent: Jane Baird, Daniel Cronn-Mills, Jan Eimers, Joel Jensen, Kent Kalm, Peg Lawrence, Angela Monson, Roland Nord, Joan Roca, Stewart Ross, Ben Weihrauch, Robert Zelin

Don Descy welcomed the group and explained that Joan Roca and Roland Nord could not attend today because they were attending their MnOnline meeting. He welcomed Vice President Scott Olson and thanked him for joining the meeting. He explained that the LTR was created by Academic Affairs to provide technology recommendations to the campus and to advise the CIO.

Scott Olson mentioned that there are dollars available for a few to attend EDUCAUSE even though the early bird deadline has already passed. Please let Don Descy or Joan Roca know if you are interested. He thanked the LTR for inviting him to the meeting and he acknowledged the very serious work of this group.

Announcements
2. AECT: Orlando, October 18-21, 2005. [http://aect.org]
3. ITech Conference, Hennepin Tech College, November 3-5, 2005
4. eFolio Minnesota Summit, Hennepin Tech College, November 3, 2005
5. MSU Wireless & Teaching With Technology Conference, Here, November 8, 2005
6. Other

Old Business
7. Turnitin - Subcommittee reappointments
   The Turnitin Subcommittee will consist of: Gerald Schneck (convener), Jim Grabowska, James Dye, and Nina LeNoir. Mary Dowd and Carol Stallkamp will be contacted to see if they would like to attend. Mark Johnson reminded the group that we should also consider other alternatives as well. Pricing is a factor in this decision.

Don Descy passed around a Masters Thesis that was submitted to Turnitin for the members to review. This document shows the results that Turnitin generates and displays when errors are found.
8. **D2L issues - Update and discussion (Mark Johnson)**

Mark Johnson stated that the LTR’s concerns were shared with the all the Campus CIO’s statewide CIO meeting that he was attending last time the LTR met. Many items were used in the conversation and the group drafted a position on D2L. People will not use D2L if they are not confident of the outcome. A assumptions made in the beginning implementation may not have been good ones and D2L does not appear to be scalable to the 400,000 MnSCU users. It is a good product but it does appear to scale well.

All the campus CIO’s presented this position statement to Vice Chancellor Ken Niemi. He was open to conversation and listen to what was said. He agreed to put up a daily sense of what is happening with D2L. Ken realizes the seriousness of this problem. There have been patches which have restored the usability to the system. Mark said that they will continue to push them to make decisions that will remedy this current situation and try to keep it from happening again.

D2L is a solid product but it may not implemented correctly.

**New Business**

9. **Discussion of LTR Charge (Scott Olson)**

Scott Olson discussed the charge presented to the LTR. He explained that it is not very different from last year’s. He showed appreciation for the work of the group and he is hopeful that this group will continue to work in that direction. The LTR helps set the vision and direction for the campus technology goals.

Vice President Olson said that we should continue to review options for making the campus more paperless. He said that the LTR should continue to review Turnitin to decide if this is something that needs to become a permanent line in the budget. If yes, we must identify ways to promote it. If not, we should review other ideas.

We must also look at PDAs in the learning process. We need to be aware of what’s going on around us. There is continued interest in the use of tablets. Who uses them and how? Digital games and simulations are also a way of promoting learning. How do we use games and simulations in learning? It is good pedagogy but we are not using what we could or should.

The HLC Accreditation Self-study will be finalized in late October. The LTR should review how we can help support the learning of the consultant evaluators, possibly an electronic resource room. This would be a cool and innovative way to use technology.

10. **Discussion of Proposal for Center for Instructional Games and Simulations (Scott Olson)**
Scott Olson said that John O’Brien from the MnSCU Chancellor’s office contacted him about the interesting items that we were doing. He had a conversation about the CETL with John. He explained that there is exclusive funding for programs that develop the workforce but this type is not fundable. He asked that we consider item 3a. of the charge and decide whether we would have interest in partnering with a 2-year school for a Center for Digital Learning. These type of Centers would do research that results in publications; print publications of best projects; be a repository of knowledge; provide a place where people could come together to talk about these type of things. It may be possible to provide assets for faculty such as release time. There are three directions we can view this from: 1) How do we develop things to help students learn? 2) How do students make games? or 3) Practice, text, television studies coming up, much as film did years ago. Considered now as arts and entertainment. Games and digital learning may become a study as well.

11. **ITS Showcase presentation: Classroom Technology**
Matt Clay presented Classroom Technology to the LTR. He showed that there were only 13 equipped classrooms in 2001 and that now there are 180 with multi-media equipment. He showed us that the use has remained constant at about 60% of these rooms using equipment. Over the summer, 33 classrooms were upgraded.

Matt requested feedback on audience response systems. If you have comments or opinions, please email them to Matt.

Gerald Schneck said it would be good if he could get a remote control for media centers. Matt said that he can by requesting one. VCR and DVD remotes can go to departments. They do not leave them there because they are often misplaced.

Jim Grabowska said that the change has been positive. He said that Elmos were not very intuitive and that if the buttons could be labeled, it would help. Matt explained that the buttons will be labeled.

Other comments made were requests for a white board that can be illuminated during presentations, a light switch by the instruction module, and the capability to record lectures. Matt thanked the group for comments and reminded everyone that if you would like to record a lecture, contact Jerry Anderson or Joe Nechanicky.

**Updates**

12. **Student LTR (James Dye)**
James Dye reported that the Student LTR has not met. They are in the process of structuring their committees.
13. **ITS/ETS (Mark Johnson)**
Mark Johnson said that ITS is working with the system on strategic Planning. He indicated that he is working on system wide efforts to better position it for the future. They will have meetings with MnSCU users throughout the state as a committee and bring back information to see where this could go. He said that they will be meeting next week to look at what is needed to get the base infrastructure built so that we can build on top of it.

John O’Brien used to be in charge of D2L. He is now the Provost at Century College. Mark Johnson is on the committee to find his replacement in the Chancellor’s Office.

The Campus Computer Store and Electronic Repair will be undergoing major renovation. This will expand the area to the stairwell. It is hopeful that sales will increase as well. The Campus Computer Store generated 3.7 million in sales last year. All excess money was returned to the campus.

If you are interested in using digital video to improve your courses, please contact Ted Johnson. He and his team will work with you to help integrate this technology.

14. **Extended Learning (Pat Lipetzky)**
Pat Lipetzky announced that the first faculty exchange meeting was held at lunchtime today. There were 15 attendees. The next meeting will be October 27 from 12 – 1 p.m. in CSU 204. It is open to all.

15. **MnOnline (Roland Nord / Joan Roca)**
No report.

16. **Other**
None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.