Learning & Technology Roundtable  
Tuesday, September 30, 2004  
2:00 p.m.  
ML 3012

Present:  Gale Allen, Don Descy, Corinne Dickey, Jan Eimers, David Gjerde, Jim Grabowska, Brian Groh, Catherine Hughes, Mark Johnson, Joan Klanderud, Tim Kochery, Mark Kump, Peg Lawrence, Patricia Lipetzky, Joan Roca, Gerald Schneck, Gary Urban, Steve Vassar, Robert Zelin


Guest:  Ted Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **EDUCAUSE:** October 19 – 22, 2004 in Denver  
   Three faculty members from the LTR will be attending EDUCAUSE.  
   They will share information with the group when they return.

2. **Online initiative RFP (Extended Learning)**  
   A new call for proposals for the online initiative will be distributed to the campus next week. If you are interested in putting together a proposal for the new RFP, it will be due by mid-November. This RFP is a different one from the e-curriculum from MnSCU that is due on October 7 (see also #11 below).

3. **Other**

OLD BUSINESS:

4. **Approval of Minutes**  
   Jim Grabowska made a motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2004. Brian Groh seconded. The minutes were approved without changes and are available at the LTR web site:  
   [http://lib.mnsu.edu/ltr/ltrinfo.html](http://lib.mnsu.edu/ltr/ltrinfo.html)

5. **Wireless Conference** (Kochery)  
   Tim Kochery reported that the Wireless Conference was successful even though attendance was down from last year. Approximately 150 people attended this year. There were 26 organizations and groups represented and 20 MnSCU schools.

   One interesting presentation was from gobinder.com and Tim suggested a visit to their website. This is a data integration tool and it might be possible to interface it with D2L.

   Tim asked members of the LTR for suggestions on increasing attendance to the Wireless Conference. It was suggested that when the advertising is done to focus more on mobile and classroom technology. Another suggestion was to offer the presentations twice at different times, since some people may be unable to attend if there is only one session. Another suggestion was
to have the conference based on ‘tracks’. This would allow people of different interests to attend sessions that pertain to what they are looking for.

General reactions from other LTR members who attended the conference were positive. Tim mentioned that if you didn’t have time to attend, the presentations are posted on the web.

6. **Feedback/comments on Portal**
Ted Johnson joined the meeting to hear the group’s feedback on his portal presentation at the last LTR meeting. He noted that some improvements to the portal have been made since his presentation, such as the link to Library Services. Improvements are being worked on continuously. The initial design was unable to separate faculty and staff groups but this has been resolved.

About 1,300 individuals have logged in to the portal. That is approximately 10% of the campus. As additional features are created, people will be more motivated into using the portal. For example, the student pay advices will be available on the portal. The value and attraction of the portal will increase as it delivers the best information to everyone.

 Concern about automatic log out time was expressed. Ted explained that the auto log out time is set for security purposes. There may be a way to extend the log in time or to delay the auto log off feature when an individual logs on from a ‘secure computer’ versus a public computer.

The ‘drag and drop’ feature does not work on the MavDisk section on the portal. It was suggested that this be documented there or else be implemented to make it work. The current technology available is limiting. The portal team continues to explore alternatives.

Joan Klanderud announced that South Central Technical College will also have a portal for student access coming out soon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**
7. **MavPrint update and discussion** (see mavprint.mnsu.edu)
The “free” printing that was offered for a few years was really paid for from the student technology fees and had been growing beyond control during the past year. The FAQ document distributed to the group (and available from the main ITS web page or at: http://www.mnsu.edu/its/mavprint/faq.html) illustrates comparisons between MSU and other institutions and what they are charging to help control excessive printing and demonstrates that the MavPrint allocation at MSU is very reasonable.

Mark Johnson acknowledged that the implementation was not without problems but ITS staff continues to work on MavPrint as a high priority. There was a question about printing in the classroom and a solution is in the testing phase. This alternative process would include a pop up that notifies the student of cost to be incurred and should not hold up classes at the release station. Departments can print at the copy shop and can be charged to their account like for copying.

8. **Discussion of LTR Charge** (from Vice President Olson)
How can we enhance the campus vision and direction for the future use of IT?
Joan Roca started the discussion, asking about the challenges of online learning. We need to identify how we can make a distance education student feel connected to the campus. Many have reservations about online teaching. There are many challenges. Distance education does not provide the face-to-face connection and personal link. It is possible to have virtual meetings or web meetings to connect students to instructors and other students. Having a photo of the instructor embedded in an email may offer a more personal touch. This would allow the student to identify with who is teaching the class.

Chemistry labs are difficult. A possible solution would be to offer a hybrid class that brings the students to campus for 3 or 4 days to spend in lab. There would be a geographic limit but if this was done once per semester, it may not be a barrier as perceived.

Follow up contact with individuals should be completed as well. It was mentioned to add a ‘check box’ on D2L that asks users if they want to be contacted. This could help us keep in contact with students and share information with potential students.

A concern was brought up about evaluating student performance in Distance Education. Some have had trouble with students working together to complete tests. An alternative would be to use a testing center to issue exams. This topic will be discussed at future meetings.

**RECURRING UPDATES:**

9. **ITS:** Mark Johnson

Mark Johnson gave a brief update about the COMET Network that he now chairs. COMET is the Consortium Of Minnesota Educational Telecommunities and was originally created as a distance learning ITV video network for Southern Minnesota. Recently, COMET is working closer with METNET (The Metropolitan Educational Telecommunications Network) which serves the twin cities metro area.

Given the recent problems implementing D2L, Mark mentioned that the LTR needs to be aware of how the implementation is going in order to make a recommendation about D2L later this year (since we only have one more year on UCompass). Tim Kochery mentioned that the D2L Advisory would be reconvened to gauge how D2L is actually doing. Feedback is needed from everyone using it. Mark Johnson is working with IT leadership in MnSCU to discuss how we can help in the future.

10. **OIT:** Tim Kochery

Tim stated that there have been daily updates on D2L. Some services have come and gone. D2L users continue to receive frequent updates on system maintenance and problem resolution.

Tim announced that there is a Distance Learning Cohort Group that meets on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. at Maggie’s. This group consists of those instructors who are teaching online courses. LTR members are welcome and should feel free to join the group at your convenience.

The Teaching and Technology Center’s (T&T) grand opening will be held on October 14. There are currently some events being scheduled in this area.

The Instructional Designer search is in progress. Reference calls are being scheduled for a small pool of candidates.
There are students available to assist with video production services, scanning, digital video and moving laser disks to DVDs.

11. **Extended Learning:** Patricia Lipetzky
Patricia Lipetzky distributed the Distance Learning Task Force Call for Proposal on MSU On-Line Learning Programs. For those who would like additional information, a session is scheduled on October 5 at 3 p.m. in CSU 285.

For the MnSCU e-curriculum RFP, proposals should be submitted to Dr. Kuyper’s office by October 1. This is a MnOnline offering.

12. **Student LTR:** Adam Weigold
No report.

13. **MnOnline:** Roland Nord
No report. The agenda and minutes are posted at [http://www.eresources.mnscu.edu/](http://www.eresources.mnscu.edu/)

14. **Tour of ITS Facilities**
The group toured the ITS facilities.

15. **Demo of the New Card Access System**
Bryan Schneider gave a demo of how the new card access system during the tour of the ITS facilities.

16. **Other**
None

17. **Adjournment**

Next LTR Meeting: October 14, 2004, 2 p.m. (V.P. Olson will attend) – This meeting will begin in ML110, a Library classroom across from the Training and Technology Center (access in Memorial Library without entering the Library). The meeting will adjourn across the hall to the T&T Center for its grand opening and a tour of the new facility.