Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Learning & Technology Roundtable  
Tuesday, October 3rd, 2-4 pm  
CSU-285

Present: Gale Allen, Jane Baird, Matthew Clay, Terrance Flaherty, Brenda Flannery, Brian Groh, Joel Jensen, Kent Kalm, Richard Kiefer-O’Donnell, Joan Klanderud, Peg Lawrence, Joan Roca, Gerald Schneck, Bryan Schneider, Wayne Sharp, Steven Smith, Gary Urban, Steven Vassar, Robert Zelin
Absent: Sandra Eggenberger, Jan Eimers, David Gjerde, Mary Hadley, Catherine Hughes, Ted Johnson, Patricia Lipetzky, Joel McKinzie, Stewart Ross, Benjamin Weihrauch
Sabbatical: Don Descy, Jim Grabowska
Guests: Jeff Henline, Mark Kump, Scott Olson

Announcements & Upcoming Events
1. Meetings this semester (all at CSU 285)
   Thursday 11/2 2 pm // Tuesday 12/5 2 pm
2. EDUCAUSE and AECT Conferences: October 9 – 13, Dallas
   Lynette Engeswick, David Esping, Todd Pfingsten, Joan Roca, and Wayne Sharp will be presenting a poster session about technology beyond the classroom at the upcoming EDUCAUSE.
   Next Year: EDUCAUSE 2007 will take place in Seattle, October 23-26.

Old Business
3. Approval of Minutes of 9/7/06
   A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 7, 2006; a second was made by Brian Groh. The minutes were approved without change.

4. D2L Issues
   Bryan Schneider mentioned a known problem of using an ampersand in the drop boxes. He said that there is a known work-around for this problem. We will be trying to turn on the Chat Capability for support. There is an issue with students who have had their name changed in the last three years. The information is not updated in D2L as it should. Jeff Henline said that if you know of an individual that has their name appearing incorrectly, please contact him, as he can fix this problem.

New Business
5. Annual Charge to LTR (V.P. Olson)
   Vice President Olson thanked everyone for serving on the Learning & Technology Roundtable. He distributed handouts that reflect the group’s charge for this academic year. The charge is broken down into four different areas:
   1. How can we enhance the campus vision and direction for the future use of information technology?
   2. Can we develop or clarify procedures and standard to support campus use of information technology?
   3. How should we promote learning through new information technology on our campus (e.g. digital games and simulations, PDAs)?
4. How can the LTR support the strategic priorities of the University (e.g. enrollment management, graduate education)?

For the first section of the charge, Dr. Olson would like us to try and identify a means of communicating information across campus. Dr. Olson would like to see the group discuss ideas to streamline the policy process on campus. It is not easy now to find out at which stage new policies are. The group should pursue possible alternatives for tracking this information electronically.

For the second part of the charge, he stated that Mark Johnson had encouraged us to do the Human Resources Search process through an electronic format such as an online application process. He would also like to see us address how we can broaden the plagiarism discussion and use technology to combat it.

The third aspect of the charge is already being worked on by Kent Kalm and others. There are many types of learning enhancements available through this type of technology. Vice President Olson announced that Drs. Patrick Tebbe, Rebecca Bates and David Haglin, received a grant of $140,000, for "MRI: Acquisition of a Linux Cluster to Fulfill High Performance Computing Needs Within Engineering and Science", from National Science Foundation. This grant coincides with work such as digital games and simulation.

For the fourth part of the charge, Vice President Olson would like us to explore the use of information technology to let the university community know how we are doing on our priorities. A progress check that is automated would be good to explore. The CETL does not have enough time to delve into new technologies but the LTR can help by bringing in new technology information and ideas to share since, in addition to having faculty representatives, the LTR is comprised of a lot of service areas from campus. It offers an opportunity to integrate technology into the learning atmosphere.

Vice President Olson would also like the LTR to begin identifying possible incentives for faculty to use new technology. There is understanding that we face financial issues, time issues, and contractual issues, but recommendations from the LTR could go to the FA and to the administration for further discussion at the Sub Meets.

MERLOT (merlot.org) is a repository of digital artifacts. Some LTR members are also members of MERLOT.

6. Webcams on Campus (Bryan)
Bryan stated that as of now, the web cam sites have been pulled from public viewing and will be kept off-line and be monitored only by Security and select ITS staff for support of classroom technology. We will continue to try and find ways that we can show our technology advances. We will also continue to discuss which cams make sense to use and also view privacy issues. Right now, the potential negative P.R. seems to outweigh the benefit.
7. MnOnline’s Online Tutorial proposal and RFP (Bryan S. & Brenda F.)
SMARTTHINKING is an online tutorial proposal being made available by MnSCU. Funding for this service is taken from the $5 fee charged for each online course. This service provides an e-tutoring platform and staffed tutoring service nationwide in various subject areas - mostly writing and math. MnSCU has allocated 109 hours per semester for MSU based on the number of online student enrollments. After these hours are used, institutions are billed back overages of $24 to $27 per hour. This program does have shortcomings but it is nice to be able to offer something to online students. We are not sure of the knowledge base. Representatives from SMARTTHINKING would be willing to visit campus if asked. They would also be able to provide an online demonstration. The Center for Academic Success (CAS) is also reviewing this software for possible use in providing online tutoring to all students.

8. Interactive Response Systems – feedback from users (Wayne S.)
Wayne Sharp distributed a handout and is requesting assistance from the LTR. He would like the LTR to identify a best-case scenario for Audience Response Systems. After discussion, the LTR will convene a group to review some issues related to Audience Response System. If you are interested in participating in the “clicker group” to make a recommendation for standardization, please contact Steve Vassar.

8a. CAP Server (Bryan S.)
Bryan Schneider said that a CAP server offers a better way of securing desktop data outside of the Uniface screen. There is a fear of confidential information being compromised. The student record system possesses a large range of IP addresses offering accessibility to information. This is a big change for developers. The Office of the Chancellor at MnSCU has suggested moving student records from an RDB database over to an Oracle database. The deadline for this is the end of the year, which is very aggressive and we will need additional help and support. The concept is very good but implementation so far has not been very successful.

8b. New Scantron Test Analysis Software (Mark Kump)
Mark Kump distributed handouts that reflect what reports the new test analysis software will provide. There was a need to change the scanner that was in use because the Unisys run by PALS is at the end of its lease and is being shut down. Please share these reports with your colleagues and departments and report feedback to Mark Kump. He would like answers as to if these reports meet the requested needs. There is always an opportunity to run additional reports at a later time. The storage time for these tests is undetermined presently.

Updates
9. Student LTR (TBD)
No report.
10. **ITS/ETS (Bryan S.)**

Bryan Schneider distributed a handout describing the recommendation to increase technology funding from MnSCU.

Secure Identify Management Infrastructure would provide a student or employee a single identity within the state. It would provide single sign on capabilities. Assessment applications could be tied into this. We need to do more to retain and recruit students.

A new anti-spam platform will be turned on this week.

The usage of MavPrint has increased 14% campus-wide this year.

11. **MSU Web (Ted J.)**

Bryan Schneider reported on behalf of Ted Johnson. There is a need to update the prospective student webpage. This has great potential for recruitment purposes but needs urgent revision.

12. **ACC (Wayne S.)**

Wayne Sharp announced the latest technology changes that have occurred in the Library. There are new stand-up stations at the entrance. These will, hopefully, limit the amount of time that students park themselves at these computers.

13. **COMET/METNET (Ted J.)**

Ted Johnson attended the meeting. Minnesota West has taken over scheduling and responsibility for the Fairmont area. They are looking at simulations and new technologies to have capability of having a VCR to plug into the IP network.

14. **Extended Learning (Pat L. & Kent K.)**

Kent Kalm held the first e-Brownbag session for faculty. They addressed blogs and wikis. There were 9 attendees. The Faculty Exchange Session will be dealing with copyright issues.

15. **MnOnline (Mary H.)**

No report.

**Other**

Technology Showcase/Presentation

Interactive Response Systems (Matt C.)

Technology at other Universities (Wayne S.)