Minnesota State University, Mankato
Learning & Technology Roundtable
Thursday, November 2, 2006
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
CSU 285

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

Co-chair Joan Roca welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending.

Announcements and Upcoming Events
1. Next (last) meeting this semester – Tuesday, December 5 (CSU 285) 2 p.m.
   If you have items that need to be addressed, please submit them to Joan Roca or Steven Vassar prior to the meeting.

   The Call for Proposals is out now. Please plan ahead if you would like to attend this conference. It takes place early in the semester.

2b. EDUCAUSE Debriefing (Bryan, Joan, & Wayne)
   Wayne Sharp shared some photographs and the brochures used for the poster session presented at EDUCAUSE. The poster session showcased the technology in the dental lab, the tech rec center, and the Library pods and was quite successful judging from the comments and reactions of the attendees.

   At EDUCAUSE Wayne attended an informational session on Clicker Technology (response systems) and another one pertaining to large computing centers on campuses. This presentation was about Temple University where they built a large center (closely resembling our AAC). He stated that they placed Administration and a Welcome Center inside which was very innovative. At Temple University, roughly 80% of the students have their own laptops but the Computing Center is always full of people.

   Ted Johnson attended an accessibility roundtable discussion presented by a person from Indiana. They recommended that websites follow xhtml 1.1 in order to be fully compliant with accessibility requirements. Ted added that the main MSU website meets these criteria and commented that Gerry Schneck had done a test on the Rehab Counseling website and identified a few problems that were easily fixed through the template. The MSU website template is largely fully accessible. Making changes at the template level will update all web pages that follow the template.
Bryan Schneider attended interesting sessions including Helping Students Map Their Future. The keynote speaker was Ray Kurzweil, known for his inventions and his accurate ability to predict the future of technology. He is responsible for electronic sound keyboards, spoken books, fax machines and others (see his web site at http://www.kurzweilai.net.) By the year 2029, he believes that $1000 computers will have 1000 times the processing power of the human brain. Some highlights included how technology and education work together.

Joan Roca attended a session that highlighted the technology trends of 540 Universities. The main focus for Universities currently is on security and services. Privacy and preventing intrusions is also a top consideration. Computer theft has increased. Viruses have decreased. Social networking is up, portal use is up. Defining issues are: 1) why faculty do not make better use of technology 2) why universities don’t make better use of technology and 3) why don’t colleges assess the impact of their IT investments.

OLD BUSINESS
3. Approval of Minutes of 10/3/06
   Brian Groh made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wayne Sharp. The minutes of October 3, 2006 were approved without change.

4. D2L Issues (Bryan S. & Jeff H.)
   Jeff stated that there have been no new issues reported with D2L. Everything seems to be running smoothly at this time. Jeff added that MnSCU is considering a possible (but not likely) release of a new version of D2L over Christmas break. He will report to LTR when more information is known. Several faculty expressed concern about making changes in mid-year and the preference is to do those over the summer if possible.

   Bryan Schneider said that we are approaching the ability to tie D2L Username/Password with the Campus Username/Password. This would make logging in a more simple process. He questioned the group as to when would be a good time to implement this procedure. It was decided that this topic would be sent forward to the Faculty Association for their input. There should not be an impact to the users if the software works.

   Joan Roca stated that a lawsuit has been filed by Blackboard against D2L. At EDUCAUSE there was talk that many Blackboard customers have expressed their concerns to the company and asked that this suit be dropped. Ted Johnson reported that former WebCT users are unhappy as well.

5. Scantron System Issues (Bryan)
   Bryan Schneider announced that information packets have been sent out and 8 sessions have been held for faculty to discuss the new scanner reports and to find out what statistical information is needed by faculty. Some faculty really used the advanced statistics report that has been available for the last 30 years, but is not available with the new reporting software. Providing the old high-level analysis will require a rewrite of the original Fortran program that ran on the old Unisys mainframe and ITS will work on this but the new reports may not be ready until the end of spring semester. This will impact the 20-25 or so faculty that depend on this
level of test analysis. More faculty would likely be interested in this analysis if they understood what the statistics meant.

NEW BUSINESS
6. Roles of LTR members (Bryan/Joan/Steve)
The group was reminded that the LTR is not a direct part of the shared governance here at MSU but we are to channel recommendations through existing Sub Meets as appropriate. It is important to communicate with constituents at colleges/departments. It is also important that any technology issues that affect faculty be discussed. All members should be proactive to gain input from their colleagues when asked. The other main role of the LTR is to assist in advising the CIO on technology decisions. The input from this group is vital to making correct decisions in technology.

A suggestion was made that we highlight specific items from the minutes that will affect faculty. This would be beneficial to instigate discussions.

Another suggestion was to handle informational items directly via email instead of using meeting time. The size of the group may be too large to be effective and should take advantage of having small subgroups to deal with specific issues. The group agreed to channel some of the work to subgroups as appropriate and those would bring back recommendations or draft documents for the LTR to consider and move forward.

7. Response Systems Subcommittee (Bryan & Steve)
A sub-committee was formed to define the criteria that are important for response systems in the classroom. Initial members of this sub-committee from the LTR will be: Matt Clay (chair), Wayne Sharp, Steve Vassar, Kent Kalm, and Bryan Schneider. Other faculty who use clickers are welcome to participate.

8. Subcommittee for the Rollout of Internet Explorer 7 browser (Bryan)
Bryan Schneider stated that we need to identify when we should roll out Internet Explorer 7. Version 6 will be abandoned by Microsoft and will affect people on campus. Implementation plans should be identified. D2L is not completely compatible with version 7, although a maintenance release is being prepared. This will impact students more at this time but faculty need to be aware of it. A sub-committee on the rollout of this new browser will include: Bryan Schneider (chair), Peg Lawrence, Terry Flaherty, Jeff Henline, Kent Kalm, Steve Vassar, and Gary Urban.

9. Subcommittee for the Tech Fee Equipment Grant Process –
This group will review and define the criteria to award equipment grants to faculty funded through the technology fee. It was suggested that it might be best to have the grants ready for funding during spring semester. The Student LTR will be asked to participate in this process. LTR members agreeing to serve on the Tech Fee Equipment Grant Sub-committee are: Wayne Sharp (chair), Terry Flaherty, Kent Kalm, Matt Clay, Steve Vassar, and Gerry Schneck. A student from MSSA will be invited to serve as well.
9a. **Issues with Students Forwarding Their Email** (Peg L.)

Peg Lawrence announced that there has been a problem identified when students forward their MavMAIL to another email address outside of MSU. Some email notices are being filtered to the ‘junk mail’ when students use Yahoo or Hotmail. It was pointed out that it is the student’s responsibility to monitor the messages from the University to their official email account. There are two areas that a student can set their mail to forward to an alternate address. In one area, a warning message appears that states students are responsible. In the other area, the warning does not appear. As of now, students must reaffirm where they read their email every eight weeks. It may be necessary to review this policy as some other universities do not allow students to forward their email. Bryan Schneider will pursue this topic with the MSSA and report back to the LTR.

**UPDATES**

10. Student LTR (TBD)
   No report.

11. ITS/ETS (Bryan S.)
   Bryan said that the new Barracuda anti-spam software is in place and working well. The settings are conservative but can be set more aggressively. Instructions for this are in the works and will be sent to the campus.

12. MSU Web (Ted J.)
   No report.

13. ACC (Wayne)
   No report.

14. COMENT/METNET (Ted J.)
   No report.

15. Extended Learning (Pat L. & Kent K.)
   No report.

16. MnOnline (Mary H.)
   No report.

17. Other

   Technology Showcase/Presentation

18. New Portal (Ted)
   Ted Johnson announced that a new portal is being designed for MSU. This will offer more versatility to the user. The current portal is being used actively by approximately 2,000 users and provides access to MavDISK. The new portal will offer news/information/entertainment options for users. A drag and drop arrangement will be implemented so that users can customize the way they view their information. The expected roll out of this new portal is during the first
couple of weeks into spring semester. We need to make sure that students are aware of this new portal.

19. Games & Simulations (Bryan)
Bryan Schneider demonstrated a gaming/simulation class available from the University of North Carolina Greensboro's, Microeconomics online course game that was shown at EDUCAUSE. The links are http://web.uncg.edu/dcl/econ201/ and http://web.uncg.edu/dcl/econ201/game/intro/

Future Presentation Topics
- RSS Capabilities & Implementation (Ted J.)
- Video Capabilities (Jerry A.)
- Information Security
- Assessment Tools
- Online Learning Tools