Minnesota State University, Mankato

Learning & Technology Roundtable
Tuesday, November 10, 2009
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
CSU 238

Present: Jane Baird, Evan Bibbee, Marcius Brock, Becky Copper-Gelenz, Diane Coursol, Marilyn Delmont, Yvette Dulohery, Marni Dunning, Jan Eimers, David Georgina, Jennifer Guyer-Wood, Jeff Henline, Catherine Hughes, Avra Johnson, Ted Johnson, Brian Jones, Chris Kaufman, Don Larsson, Peg Lawrence, Dawn Leech, Roland Nord, Danae Quirk-Dorr, Joan Roca, Bryan Schneider, Wayne Sharp, Steve Smith, Julie Snow, Gary Urban, Steve Vassar
Absent: Queen Booker, Ron Browne, Matt Clay, Robert Dooley, Joshua Kilvington, Gary McKinley, Jayme Pretzloff, Murtaza Rajabali, Steve Robinson
Guest: John O’Brien

Minutes
Joan Roca called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. After brief introductions by LTR members, invited guest John O’Brien, Students First Initiative Director, from the Office of The Chancellor, was introduced to do a presentation on the Students First Initiative and respond to questions.

John O’Brien stated that it was great to see that this group remained together after all these years (the LTR started in 1997). He is a strong believer in having a broad group of constituents to discuss the use of technology in teaching and learning.

John O’Brien did a presentation on the Students First Initiative (SFI). The powerpoint and other documents are available on the website: [www.studentsfirst.project.mnscu.edu](http://www.studentsfirst.project.mnscu.edu) under “Documents and Links”. The web site outlines the six projects that comprise the SFI and provides concrete deliverables for students. There is also a list of frequently asked questions available. These questions and responses were based on the best available information at the time and will be updated regularly. If you have questions or comments, please email John O’Brien at john.obrien@so.mnscu.edu.

In response to questions from the group, John made the following comments:

- On Database Consolidation: the first step in this project was the database consolidation, which provided key infrastructure necessary to move ahead with the project. This will help provide tracking information across the various systems.
- On Common Course Numbering: there is no intent to do this as part of Students First now or in the future. Arguably, projects like Students First can improve the ability of students to take courses from more than one college or university, making common course numbering less, not more likely, when it goes forward.
- On the Timeline: there is an aggressive timeline. The Single Bill/Payment project, due to a mandate State of Minnesota development project (MAPS), will not be completed by June of 2011.
- If funding is not provided for FY11, we will deal with it. There are 6 different projects with 6 different timelines and there are a lot of deliverables under each one.
- On whether SFI will lead to centralized services and position cuts at the campuses: this is not the intent although some economies of scale may result in redeployment of positions but each campus will continue to have autonomy on their staffing. Students First is not an effort to create “MnSCU Students.”
- On Cost: the approved cost for this year (FY10) is $1.5 million; however, additional resources include existing staff development time, which is above this amount.
- On the need for testing: I heard this loud and clear at the earlier meetings on this campus. We need to improve testing. We do not intend to roll out applications that have a lot of problems.
- Comment from the Audience: the advising function could be misleading. There is a high demand in some departments with heavy emphasis on advising. There are also privacy issues in sharing student data across institutions.
- On Single Registration: there are differences in the application process at different campuses but it is pretty similar. We hope to have the single registration by 2011.
• Comment from the Audience: there is concern that graduate education is not being addressed by the SFI as this is an undergraduate initiative. John mentioned that he is scheduled to attend a meeting of the Graduate Council to provide an update on Students First.
• Comment from the Audience: there are concerns about students using courses from other institutions, as someone could go online and find a non-accredited course and would be frustrated when it is not accepted in an accredited program. This is especially true at state universities.
• On SFI becoming a “shopping cart” model in which students could “shop around” for courses just based on cost: this is not the intent although some institutions are already well positioned to compete. Audience member stated that we take the risk of having winners and losers. Students may decide to take the lower priced classes at another institution but this may not always be the best choice for their program. Students do not just care about cost, but also quality.
• On What Next: the next steps are working with campuses to put together work groups for each of the 6 subgroups with experts in each area. December 9 will be the kick-off meeting with the Chancellor. Monthly updates will be provided on the Students First website. Communication will be shared with the President and Provost so that they can share information. Students First web site is http://www.studentsfirst.project.mnscu.edu
• On Redefinition of Online Courses: this is primarily an online initiative but there will be no redefinition of online courses at the MnSCU level. [Local Faculty Association President Don Larsson mentioned that online is being redefined federally as no face-to-face.]

John O’Brien encouraged everyone to check the frequently asked questions page (Students First web site is www.studentsfirst.project.mnscu.edu), as it will be updated frequently, and he welcomes email messages for any questions. He ended his presentation at 3:15 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UP Doming EVENTS/CONFERENCES (FYI)
• LTR Meetings this semester: 9/1, 10/5, 11/10, and 12/1 (CSU 238) – There is only one meeting left this semester.
• Telepresence Demonstration in Bloomington, MN: November 13, 2009, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. – if you are interested in attending this presentation, please contact bryan.schneider@mnsu.edu. He has a van lined up for transportation. The group will probably be leaving the ‘horseshoe lot’ around 7:15 a.m.
• Other Announcements

OLD BUSINESS
• Approval of Minutes of 10/6/09 available at: http://mnsu.edu/ltr/ltrinfo.html. A motion was made by Ted Johnson and a second was made by Brian Jones to approve the minutes of October 6, 2009. The minutes were unanimously approved without change.

NEW BUSINESS
2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Student First Initiative – John O’Brien, SFI Director, The Chancellor’s Office

ON GOING TECHNOLOGY UP DATES
A. Student MSSA/STC (Students) - Chris Kaufman stated that MSSA is working on a survey for the College of Business students regarding the additional fees and printing. All current College of Business users will get this survey that deals with the laptop fee and the use of laptops. Jayme Pretzloff has been working on this and has created an effective survey.

B. Extended Learning/7700 France (Becky Copper-Gelenz) – No report.

C. Library Services (Peg Lawrence) – Peg announced that the Library will be open normal hours on Veteran’s Day. The new Library newsletter will be coming out soon and addresses the Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM). This service is provided by Minitex. She shared a MnKnows bookmark with the group. MnKnows offers statewide public access to electronic databases to any Minnesota resident with a valid public library card.
D. **ITS – VP/CIO (Marilyn Delmont)**

Marilyn said that ITS offices will be closed for Veteran’s Day but will offer limited telephone service.

EDUCAUSE was a good conference. She received some good information. Ted Johnson and Jeff Hundstad were commended for their poster sessions on curriculum development (very well attended) and the Single Sign On. Tom Rogers and Jeff also presented.

Marilyn will be attending the MnSCU CIO meeting in the next few weeks. If you have anything that needs to be addressed, please send the information to Marilyn.

The Vice Chancellor IT Search has begun. We are hoping to have someone in this position by January.

Beginning in January, Marilyn would like to begin scheduling those individuals that received the MnSCU IT Initiative Grant funding to present at LTR on the status of their projects. MSU did receive over $500,000 for this fiscal year but the discussion needs to occur at Cabinet-level on how the money should be allocated. It will probably be used for infrastructure this year and to also upgrade the redundant fibers on campus. We will not be seeking proposals for the grant money this year but that could change for next year. At MSU, we don’t have the bandwidth to add additional projects right now. You should talk to your Dean or Vice President if you know of something that really impacts enrollment management.

There is collaboration between the U of M and MnSCU to implement video streaming services into MnSCU. There have been multiple discussions. The cost will be about $900,000 over 3 years to implement this project.

E. **ITS – Networking/Systems (Bryan Schneider)** – Bryan said that the phone system upgrade went well. There are still a few items that need to be worked out.

The Pin to Password change will take place on November 12th (originally scheduled for 11/5). An email was sent out to students as to what to expect. It seems as if this change will work fine for our system.

Bryan has reserved a van for the CISCO Telepresence demo on Friday. If you want to carpool with him, please email him. They will be leaving by 7:15 a.m. and be back on campus by 2 p.m.

One week from today, November 17th, a demo of the new MavMail will be presented. Roll out is expected over winter break. Also demoed will be office communication using Windows 7, Alive meeting and a messenger service.

There has been some wireless instability on campus. Some of the access points change channels while communicating with each other which causes disconnects on some laptops. We are working with Cisco to figure out how to fix this problem.

Bryan said that the StarID system will take between 6 months to one year to work out the kinks.

F. **ITS – ACC (Wayne Sharp)**

Wayne Sharp introduced David Georgina to the members of the LTR. David will be offering a “Boot Camp” to faculty who want to convert to online courses. He will be providing assistance with content. Additional information will be forthcoming. Space is limited and filling up fast.

Converting content from traditional to digital classes will be offered December 14 – 17 in the morning (4 hours). This is a beta project but there is a waiting list. There is an incentive.

Wayne announced that there are several kiosks that have Windows 7 available for people to try out. A survey was completed and the results have been good. Encouraging news is that students are now logging in pretty instantaneously when using Windows 7 where it used to be a wait time of about 30 seconds.
Marni and Wayne attended Educause. Wayne reported that many Universities have now been putting technology into informal spaces and are following the MSU charge from 2 years ago. It is nice to see that they are starting to mimic us. Marni attended a demonstration of Google Wave. This is an instant messaging service.

Wayne announced that many campuses are outsourcing their email to gmail. The U of M is phasing in gmail. One bad thing is that when a student transfers out of an institution, they will begin to get the advertising mail again.

There is also outsourcing of data backup occurring. One example is Google docs. Many universities also outsource their alum email addresses. There is no visible change to the user.

G. **ITS – Customer Support** (Dawn Leech)
Dawn announced that the Help Desk will be telephone only on Veteran’s Day.

H. **ITS – ISRS** (Ted Johnson)
No report.

I. **ITS – MSU Web & Portal** (Ted Johnson)
There were demos at Educause and the web portal was very well received. There is an article in the Reporter regarding the schedule builder.

A soft launch is in progress for the Identity Bar right now but you will not notice it unless you log in. They are working out the bugs with a small number of users. There will a sign in link right next to the search box on the masthead on a website.

Marketing with the web continues. In the past month a number of advertisements on the 10 o’clock news have been aired. Our hits on websites have leveled off over the last couple of years but we have shown a 12% spike in traffic since the ads. This represents 2,300,000 visits to our websites.

J. **ITS – COMET/METNET** (Ted Johnson)
Ted stated that the group has approved the budget for next year. A draft of a Joint Powers Agreement has been written for the Streaming Media Project between the U of M and MnSCU. All streaming media will be stored at the U of M. This is being piloted by the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota. Barriers to this are funding and MnSCU adoption.

At the COMET Board meeting, they have reviewed how to deal with video systems. It is a challenge because ITV is evolving. Improvements in ITV are being challenged. Cisco has purchased Tanberg. Cisco now owns low end, mid-range, and high-end systems.

K. **ITS – D2L** (Jeff Henline)
Jeff announced that we have upgraded to version 8.4.1 with only a few small fixes. Spring courses are available. There haven’t been any problems and everything seems stable.

L. **Other tech updates/announcements** (Don Larsson…)
Don Larsson announced that Donna Bloom will be out of the office for the next week. The IFO endorsed the single billing component of Students First but that is on hold for now. There are new guidelines on the use of packaged courses. We need to make faculty aware of this beforehand. MnSCU is working on guidelines for enrollment caps on these courses. Discussions are occurring on Intellectual Property. There is concern from the IFO but it is not major at MSU yet. Single storage for media might have implications as well.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Julie Dornack