Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Learning & Technology Roundtable  
Thursday, November 17, 2005  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
ML 3012  

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

Joan welcomed the group to the meeting.  

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Jim Grabowska to approve the minutes of October 27, 2005, seconded by Gerald Schneck. After group vote, the minutes of October 27th were approved.  

Announcements  
   This new symposium at the University will offer ways to begin to explore certificate programs in gaming and development. Dr. Robert Sweet, Assistant Professor of Urologic Surgery and newly appointed AHC Clinical Director of Simulations Programs, will be your host. Registration is free, but please do register. Lunch will be provided along with the opportunity to speak with vendors and view simulation tools. Industry leaders and University researchers will join together to share knowledge about the development and use of simulation devices for assessment and training.  

2. Other – None  

Old Business  
3. Feedback from MSU Wireless & Teaching With Technology Conference  
   Kent Kalm stated that this was an excellent conference. There were approximately 230 registrants and a good variety of participation. The feedback received has been very good. The format change of this conference helped a great deal. We may need to promote this conference earlier next year to encourage more outside attendees. It was mentioned that possibly changing this conference to a Friday would provide faculty with a better opportunity to attend. Mark Johnson stated that this would be taken into consideration for planning next year. He commended Vicki Petersen for all of her work in the organization of this event.
4. **Feedback from MnSCU iTeach Conference**
   Kent Kalm reported that this was the largest iTeach Conference in history. They had over 400 people attend and 102 presenters. There was great diversity among the topics presented.
   Elena Ivanova said that this was a very useful conference. She distributed handouts on WIDS software. This software is for curriculum and course development. You can visit [http://wids.org](http://wids.org) and click on “See the new WIDS Software Virtual Tour”. If the LTR is interested in having a demonstration of this software, a spokesperson from WIDS would be interested in presenting to us.

5. **Update from Academic Integrity Subcommittee**
   Gerald Schneck distributed an article that was published in The Reporter. He said that he was pleased with the article and both he and James Dye were quoted accurately. The committee has decided that the next step will be to figure out how many are currently using Turnitin. D2L included part of Turnitin for the drop box. Mark Johnson stated that a lot of things are being added but we need to be cautious because that is where our problems began. Gerald said that they have contacted Jeff Henline regarding a demo for the LTR or the subcommittee.

6. **D2L Issues – Update and Discussion**
   Mark Johnson mentioned that there are no big updates at this time. The recommendation from the D2L Group to stabilize D2L has seemed to work. We have no idea where we will be during peak use times. This topic is also on the agenda for Extended Learning Sub Meet & Confer. Roland Nord and Joan Roca will also be taking these recommendations to MnOnline as well.

   One of the MnOnline Council subcommittees is considering a proposal for a $5 per credit fee for every student that uses the D2L system. Some discussion followed and there was general opposition to this idea. The consensus was that definitely no fee should be proposed until the D2L problems are worked out. Several faculty members agreed that it has been a real fight to get people to use D2L but recent performance problems are providing another reason not to try it. With the adoption of D2L this last year, the growth at our campus has been phenomenal.

7. **Proposal for Center for Instructional Games and Simulations Gaming Subcommittee**
   The subcommittee consists of Kent Kalm, Nina LeNoir, Gale Allen, Don Descy, Angela Monson, and Gerald Schneck. Kent Kalm will call this group together to gather information on how to get started with this. This group will propose some ideas to be provided to Vice President Olson on how MSU can participate in this venture.

8. **New Business**
   **Music Download Service from Ruckus**
   James Dye distributed an email to the LTR members regarding the research he is doing for the Student Senate pertains to an MP3 subscription service. He said that the Student Senate has been researching a legal MP3 service for our campus to cut down on
bandwidth usage and illegal downloading of software. They have reviewed Ruckus, Napster and Apple iTunes. iTunes does not really offer a subscription purchase and the University would have only 5,000 licenses to distribute so this did not prove to be a great deal. Napster’s proposal requests that the University pay for servers and maintenance so it does not seem to prove positive.

Ruckus subscription service offers the right to play music but it cannot be written to a CD unless students pay an additional fee. Ruckus offers a music library of over 1.5 million tracks. The pricing model would be that there are no fees for installation of cache servers, hardware or ongoing maintenance. Ruckus will provide training to help desk personnel and will be available when problems do occur. Pricing is being based on a full semester with the cost or $10 per semester per student. Opt in movies would be available at an additional charge of $19.95 per student and would be paid for by the student. The site license, if 80% of the total campus population participated would be $21 per semester per student.

The problem of illegal downloading of music and movies seems to have grown because more movies are available now and it takes more time to download them. The Student Senate has discussed this service and it was received with mixed reviews but there seemed to be some support for it.

The University of Minnesota has been using this subscription service and has received mixed results. They are currently paying for it and have very low usage.

The group agreed that before this service should eventually be added, more discussion is needed and it will be revisited in spring semester but the Student LTR if they wish to pursue it. On November 30, a representative from Ruckus will be speaking to the Student Senate and demonstrating a run through of Ruckus at 4 p.m. Attendance at this presentation is open to anyone.

9. **ITS Showcase: VPN and MavDisk**
Bryan Schneider did a presentation on VPN and MavDisk. MavDisk hasn’t changed much in the past months but access has been improved via a browser. This is space that the student can use the entire time they are at MSU. MavDisk is a great place to back up files. [http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu](http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu).

The VPN (Virtual Private Network) [http://vpn.mnsu.edu](http://vpn.mnsu.edu) can be used to save files through your browser. There is no application to install and it works even with old browsers. You can use the drop box feature to share information and there is an area with course folders. Bryan Schneider would like to receive feedback to develop and enhance these.

10. **Faculty Reps for Student LTR in Spring Semester**
If you are interested in serving on the Student LTR Subcommittee of the LTR, please send an email expressing your interest to Joan Roca. This committee has been very highly commended for its work in the past years and prior members report that it is a beneficial experience.
Updates
11. Student LTR
   James Dye stated that this group will not be fully assembled until spring semester.

12. ITS/ETS
   No report.

13. Extended Learning
   Pat Lipetzky announced that they are still looking for summer online courses. If you are interested, please contact her.

14. MnOnline
   No report.

15. Other
   None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.