



LTR Meeting Minutes, 10 /
24 / 2002

Members present

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PRESENT: Greg Bednar, Frank Birmingham, Jan Eimers, Scott Fee, Marilyn Fox, Dave Gjerde, Brian Groh, Melissa Holmberg, Catherine Hughes, Mark Johnson, Nancy Mackenzie, Henry Morris, Ian Radtke, Joan Roca, Warren Sandmann, Pat Sexton, Gary Urban, Steve Vassar

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ABSENT: Don Descy, John Frey, Joel Jensen, Kent Kalm, Joan Klanderud, Tim Kochery, Judy Kuster, John Parham, Tim Scott, Robert Zelin

Announcements

Old Business

- 1-2. No additions to agenda or corrections to minutes of last meeting.

New Business

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Discussion of Ucompass Educator Survey
Warren and Brian developed survey instruments to assess use of Ucompass Educator and these are ready for us to collect feedback. The charge to develop the survey was a carryover from last year and was intended to evaluate the product, gather info, support decision & choice, evaluate if this tool worth the money, time & effort, assess the residual value of the product, how has it been going, have people been using it, why, why not. Especially why are faculty not using Educator. Since one of President Davenport's goals for the coming year focuses on online learning, the survey may contribute some useful data.

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The group felt we should use these instruments without further delay, even if they may not be totally perfect. The LTR is most appropriate

group to continue and finish up the survey. The intention is to seek feedback from faculty and students, both users and non-users. Whatever data is generated on use, faculty, etc., will assist in decision making for campus and MnSCU. In about a year we should be ready to renew the license for Educator and the data collected should be useful for evaluation. After some discussion on whether to use all the questions or only part, whether to use a combination of paper and on line, the group felt that we should move on with the online format as is. The co-chair will work with Brian and Warren to draft a message to be sent out to all students and faculty and ITS will take care of sending it out and also work out a timeline for the process. If the response rate is not satisfactory we might consider using focus groups, offering some reward to students. etc. It was mentioned that money/food is usually a good motivator to get students involved.

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Technology Plan Subcommittee

Following Vice President Boubel's charge to the LTR to develop a new Technology Master Plan, a subcommittee was formed at the previous LTR meeting and some additional faculty volunteered for the group. The group now consists of Greg Bednar, Mark Johnson, Tim Kochery, Henry Morris, Scott Fee, Marilyn Fox, and Steven Vassar (Tim Scott will join next semester). Mark Johnson will be providing some materials for the group to get started, as well as some guidelines from MnSCU. Once there are some drafts or proposals they will be brought up for discussion and revision by the whole Roundtable.

- Distance Learning Subcommittee

Vice President Boubel also requested on her charge that the LTR should "examine, identify, and address technology issues related to distance learning and online education." This is a broad topic and it was suggested that 1) a subcommittee could be formed to start identifying the issues to be addressed by the whole group and 2) broad discussions and brainstorming could take place at meetings of the full Roundtable. Other campus groups will be addressing this issue as well. Joan Roca will send a call to the LTR requesting volunteers to be part of this subcommittee.

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Role of faculty and administrative groups in LTR

The LTR has been focusing mostly on online courses and a lot of academic issues but we need to address any technology issues from other units as well (registrar and other student services, residential life, student union, financial affairs, security, etc).

It was suggested that it might be easier for the non-academic members to work in a subgroup to identify their technology issues that need to be brought up for discussion by the whole group. The strength of the LTR is that it can make recommendations as Roundtable and bring them up for discussion at the campus level. Joan and Don will convene a meeting of the administrative subgroup.

- EDUCAUSE Reports

Scott Fee mentioned he found good information for faculty; he was especially interested in how campuses are using handhelds, and what is happening with course management software. Not much focus on newest stuff, evolution of better using tools we now have, campus website versus "my web page" portals, things just a few clicks away, integration of faculty, student, IT; many campuses are experimenting with palms as a tool to become familiar with things on campus, sinking stations, "Mapit" applications (Near/Inner Space) use hand held to get info, name, phone and actual physical location on campus, slower evolution and fully use what this now available; focus on using platforms in traditional classrooms, using what we know and adding to it instead of leaping away.

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Steve Vassar: he saw software for faculty that links paper-writing with tools to find cases of plagiarism and to assist with grading and online testing. Comparisons of online, hybrid, and traditional courses seem to indicate that they produce similar learning outcomes. Hybrid courses mixing online with traditional seems to be what is now most popular. Some campuses are offering incentives for faculty to participate in training seminars (i.e., \$250 for intensive 4 day training session). Other sessions focused on online assessment and innovative uses of PDA's.

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Mark Johnson: focused on higher level sessions. He liked to hear the term "coopetition" indicating ways we can work cooperatively with a competitive spirit, using each others skills and staff but still have unique aspects and different strengths. The concept of online cohorts to work together to have a class, with a structure not necessarily associated with a calendar seems more widespread. He also learned about Enterprise Records Programs that might eventually replace ISRS.

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Joan Roca: noticed fewer companies in online education products and more concentrated. A few well-known had great marketing displays. Educator had a booth and you could actually talk to the developer (unlike with big outfits). He focused on sessions along the library track. An interesting session reported the results of a nationwide interview of university 3200 faculty and students about use of library resources: the differences in use are more by discipline than type of institution or program. Print resources still predominant but users first go to online tools and resources to identify then get the actual paper. The Internet is heavily used but not trusted without supplemental verification. Libraries continue to channel access through their web sites and provide tools that do everything, but there are many maintenance and support issues.

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The meeting was adjourned shortly after 3 pm.

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Next meeting - December 5th, 2-3PM

Future items to be considered: whether the length of LTR meetings should be extended to 90 minutes (given that there is never enough time to cover everything but there are constraints on everyone's calendars).

Respectfully submitted by Leslie Peterson / Joan Roca.

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