Learning with Technology Committee Meeting
October 18, 2007
Minutes

Those in attendance: Paul Scovell (filling unfilled Perdue Seat), Stephen Ford (At-Large), Jane Ma (TLR), Jerry Waldron (IT), Melissa Thomas (TLR), Brent Zaprowski (Senator), Sam Geleta (Henson) and Thea McDowell (At-Large). Absent: Regina Royer (Seidel) and Marta Losonczy (Fulton).

Brief discussion on and request for creating a web space for committee documents and the committee approved. Paul Scovell offered to create the web site.

Brent Zaprowski reported from Faculty Senate of the desire to reduce the number of committee members across all committees. LWTC does not wish to reduce its representation, having recently reviewed its membership composition and, as a result, added a librarian representative.

1. Approval of minutes - Minutes were reviewed and approved with some changes: revised minutes will be sent to committee members by Thea.

2. RefWorks/Endnote - Stephen Ford reported that a link to the RefWorks demo and trial has been added to the top of the Blackwell Library home page.

   Report on the October 2 demo: 15-20 SU faculty/staff in attendance. Focus was on student use, the databases contained within and user collaboration. Some mention by the presenter that its competitor, Endnote, was not web-based, so was not as portable for the user.

   As planned, the demo was videotaped. Melissa Thomas will follow up with Cindy Cornish of Television Services to arrange for a streaming distribution of the video to the campus community.

   It was reported that an e-mail was received from Bob Joyner, an Endnote user, asking for an institutional trial of Endnote. Stephen Ford will follow up with Mou Chakraborty in the library to see if this is possible and will report back. The Web of Science has a bundled web version of Endnote, but the functionality is so watered down that those who use it end up buying their own full edition of Endnote.

   For systems under consideration, the committee should look at costs and limitations for campus use. Do we go with site license or department or particular group (number of users)? Jerry Waldron says that at $19,000 per year for RefWorks, the provost would need to see the campus need. Thea McDowell commented that alumni can buy RefWorks for $100 per year, that web-based systems can be troublesome and that the software is portable. Melissa Thomas reviewed the list of good and bad comments from a listserv posting circulated earlier and suggested that we need to do a survey now. Paul Scovell proposed, and the committee agreed, to send a survey at the end of the trial,
November 30, 2007. The survey should inquire about people’s experience with such systems and include both RefWorks and Endnote.

3. Web of Science - Stephen Ford reported that a link to the Web of Science demo and trial has been added to the top of the Blackwell Library home page. The library and the Henson School are reputed to be splitting the cost of the database.

Report on the October 17 demo: @10 SU faculty/staff in attendance. Focus was on faculty use, primarily with citation tracking analysis and reports, and students use with broad discipline coverage in the database.

It was pointed out that, other than the free web Endnote functionality of the database, discussion of this topic is not relevant for the committee, as it is not charged with taking any action.

It was suggested that the Dean of Libraries might be asked to send a reminder e-mail about the trial, possibly in the SU E-News.

4. TurningPoint (aka “clickers”) update -

Report on the October 9 open meeting: Not many in attendance. Positive and negative feedback was received. Jane Ma reported that problems were the result of human error and not with the system itself. Most popular uses are quizzes, surveys and taking attendance. Of most concern were the time it takes for set up and issues with the participant list. Jane Ma will schedule advanced training for participant list and reports.

5. Quality Matters subscription and course peer review process – Melissa Thomas reported that 66 faculty have voluntarily gone through the Soaring with Online Learning program. The USM Pedagogy group is exploring a consortial subscription to Quality Matters for peer review of courses using a nationally known rubric based on research and scholarship in online learning best practices. She recommended that SU subscribe to Quality Matters and asked for advice on the subscription level to choose: 5 course peer reviews (statewide level) or up to 20 reviews (consortium level). The committee advised and approved to start small (5 reviews) and build from there according to need. LWTC committee approved the QM on the basis that faculty participation in Quality Matters is on a volunteer basis. It was suggested that Kathy Wright’s Quality Matters course be placed on MyClasses for all to see. Melissa Thomas will check on this possibility.

6. Sloan Consortium subscription information - Postponed until a later meeting.

7. Online Learning web site - Postponed until a later meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 3 PM.

Submitted by
Stephen Ford