Meeting Minutes
ITG – Instructional Technology Group
January 22nd, 2015
9:30 – 10:30 am in Plover 456

Attendees: Ethington, Robert; Baty, Will; Conrad, Scott; Berger, Marc; Siedentopf, Andre; Persons, Nancy; Roth, Michael; Pearson, Matthew; Sturr, George; Bowden, Russ; Torikian, Sasun; Rivera, Laura; Diamond, Jeffrey; Jacobson, Tara; Johnson, Tara; Williams, Catherine.

Absent: Pinaula, Joshua; Collier, Li; Rivera, Laura

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM.

1. Minutes from last meeting were unanimously approved with some minor spelling corrections. (Jacobson; Motion, Baty; Second)

2. Budget Update: Scott discussed meeting with Dr. Chong about the current ITG budget plan and reaffirmed that the already approved 1 Million dollar budget for this year is the budget. ITG may recommend some augmented spending for the next fiscal year to accommodate replacing the apx. 300 computer stations in the Doyle library but that will be in next year’s budget proposal to Dr. Chong.

3. Slide presentation: (Scott) to review Mac/PC policy. Currently the percentage of PC to Mac among faculty and staff is 90/10. A few years ago it was 80/20. Important to consider Total costs of purchase and support when determining if a Mac is necessary. Early testing with Windows based tablets indicates that they are not a viable option at this time. One of the factors that increases support costs for Macs is that they are difficult to manage in an enterprise environment.

4. Recommendations:

1. Buy new equipment for all faculty and staff. Buy all new instructional equipment for labs and the libraries, lower total cost of ownership over the life of the systems.
2. Full time faculty will be allowed to choose a Mac or PC, no justification required.
3. Administrators and Classified employees will have PC’s.
4. All bond and instructional equipment funded purchases will be base recommended models
5. Departments must fund cost above base model unless academic need is approved.
6. There is an existing appeals process to the management team for exceptions.
7. Grant funded purchases should conform to these same guidelines but have more latitude since they are not funded by bond funds.

Discussion Summary: There was considerable discussion of the slide presentation showing the total cost of ownership differences between PC’s and Macs. Scott pointed out that Apple productivity software (Keynote etc.) is now available in an online version that runs on the Windows platform. Russ made the point that current trends indicate that the added cost of supporting Macs may be an acceptable expense depending on the reasons for needing them. George asked who would determine academic need and Scott clarified that this would be the Deans. Nancy said that it seemed as if the current recommendations were pitting staffing needs against faculty preference for Macs and that this was a losing way of looking at the issue. She pointed out that there is no PC training available for faculty and that change is difficult. Jeff agreed and felt that the issue should be framed differently, pointing out that there are also costs to forcing instructors to switch to a different OS. Scott emphasized the need for consistent guidelines from ITG. Matt suggested that Deans need more guidance on how to make decisions about what equipment is needed. Scott agreed that guidelines need to be clearly communicated. Russ stated that this is not a purely financial consideration. If peoples OS preferences could be accommodated more liberally it would contribute to a happier work environment. Extra costs would have to be built in and accounted for. George mentioned that in context faculty feel they have been experiencing a decline in support from the institution in various areas. He felt that a forced OS change had a large hidden cost for faculty and wished our policy could be more accommodating. Marc suggested that a possible solution would be to recognize that teaching faculty have different needs than business users and a case could be made for allowing them to choose which platform (Mac or PC) works best for them. Purchases for the business users could be limited to PC’s. Andre pointed out that giving instructors a choice to use a Mac laptop for their office computer would be helpful in standardizing classroom instructor stations on PC’s since instructors could bring their Mac if needed to the classroom. Scott emphasized that the dual boot model is expensive to support and not stable and that he felt Marc’s proposal was a good solution.

Will proposed that recommendations be reviewed in light of the points brought up in the discussion and brought back to the next meeting.

Nancy again mentioned the need for technology training.

Li agreed that this was an important need.

Scott pointed out this is an HR responsibility.

Nancy suggested that ITG may want to make this recommendation to the staff development committee.
Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM