

Minutes

General Technology Committee

September 20th 2017

RPL 325

In attendance: Ken Wester, Brent Etzel, Michael Davis, Karen Riddell, Steve Milligan, Clay Moore, Wyatt Watson, Carol Adkison, Billy Reeder, Donna Rankin, Loretta Cochran, and Beth Gray

Absent: Christine Austin, Jason Patton, Mary Gunter and Bruce Sikes

1. Call to order and review any prior business from April 2017
 - a. Minutes – The committee members had not had a chance to review minutes, so this was tabled.
 - b. Discuss recommendation of a Technology Learning Systems Committee (April 2017)

Ken told the committee that there is a gap between the online and face-to-face classes in regards to what technology is used. He said they are having trouble getting recommendations on this and would like to get the recommendations of the committee. He said that, in the past, this committee had really just been for informational purposes where OIS informed them what had been done. He wants that to change so that they get recommendations from the committee that can then go to the IT Prioritization Committee and then on to the Budget Advisory Committee. He told the committee that Administration wants everything budgeted now before it is purchased.
2. Recognize new members and go over the charge of this committee
 - a. Discuss if membership is inclusive enough - Ken asked if the committee thought there needed to be more faculty included. They did not think so, but thought the committee needed a member from the Career Center.
 - b. University wide but listed as impacting Russellville Campus - Ken said that it needs to be determined whether the committee is for the Russellville Campus only or for Ozark too. It is listed as Russellville Campus Standing Committee, but it has a member from the Ozark Campus. Since we are working towards having “One Campus” he thought this was important to clarify.
 - c. Overall scope and recommendations for Dr. Bridgmon – Ken told the committee that Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, the new Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, would take over as chair of the committee once he arrives. He would like to get the committees suggestions regarding the function of the committee for Dr. Bridgmon. Should it be expanded from an “Academic” committee to also include the non-academic areas? Do we need a sub-committee to look at pedagogical technology? He said there are 179 classrooms on campus. Do the classrooms have the right technology for what they are being used for? He said OIS has made some upgrades this semester
3. Review Blackboard SaaS cost information for 18/19 –Ken spoke to the committee about Blackboard Learn Essentials and displayed the proposal for the cost of purchasing this solution on the screen. He told the committee that, right now, we do not have a high outside

redundancy and he wanted their opinion on looking at either an off-site location or a cloud solution for back-up purposes. We have about 2,800 classes and around 30% of those are online with even more than that using Blackboard for their classes. He told the committee that the added cost of a hosted environment would be around \$60,000 per year. The gain from that is that it is in the cloud and we wouldn't have to worry about losing it. This would also be an enhanced interface with a cleaner, more modern look for the students. He suggested the committee look over the Blackboard SaaS Plus Solution plan that is posted in the Blackboard shell for the committee. The committee discussed whether there would be a security cost saving if we went with this plan. Ken said that it wouldn't really, because he only has one person that takes care of Blackboard. This would free up some of this person's time, but he would still have to do back-ups and such. The committee then wanted to know how easy it would be to increase the storage from 4TB (as listed in plan). Ken said it would be easy; just a matter of money. They then discussed the quality on mobile devices. Ken told them it is better than what we have, but is still not great. The committee wanted to know if they could recommend something other than Blackboard if needed. Ken said they could and that they had looked at other products before. The committee discussed some of the other LMS products such as Canvas and D2L. Ken said that he could set up some demonstrations if needed. He asked the committee to look at Blackboard and make recommendations to him.

The committee discussed the cost for an added physical location which Ken said would be around \$125-130,000 with replacements every 5 years. The benefit of this is more database control. He said that most people are doing hosted now though.

4. Review 16/17 Technology changes, additions and enhancements to Campuses. – Ken told the committee that the 16/17 Technology Changes were posted in Blackboard. He told the committee that IT works across campus on both academic and non-academic projects and that they have purchased close to \$1 million in networking, including VOIP phones (the campus is 40% converted to VOIP now). In Administrative Systems, \$160,000 was spent on Apple products (just through Apple; not including Apple products purchased from other sources), \$1,146,000 from Dell on computers, servers, etc. 683 new computers were purchased. Those purchased from the Instructional Equipment (AAINEQ) budget are bought for Academics, but IT can buy for others. They will find a way to fund these. Dr. Cochran asked if there was a cycle to replace computers. Ken said that they try to replace faculty computers every five years. They pass down the used ones to graduate assistants and student workers.
5. Round Table – Ken told the committee that December 8th would be the final meeting before the Budget Advisory meeting for the 18-19 budget year and asked if there was anything in the pipeline that needed consideration. He told them to send anything they think of to him.

Wyatt wanted to know if the committee would need to be clarified in October. Ken said probably January since Dr. Bridgmon would not be here until October.

Ken asked the committee how often they thought they should meet. He suggested meeting around strategic dates to get recommendations to pertinent committee before deadlines. This would include recommendations on technology fee structure.

Wyatt asked if this committee would be the right venue to come up with the money to buy computers for non-academic offices. He said he would be willing to contribute money from his budget to get on a cycle to get their computers replaced. Ken said this committee could give recommendations on that. Clay asked about using virtual desktops such as thin clients. The committee discussed this and how good the performance was with these machines. Ken said it is much better than it used to be.

Dr. Cochran told the committee that her department had a donor for a large database and that they will be needing support with that. They would also have the SAP (ERP System) within the next 24 months.

Donna Rankin asked about the Inventory Management System and Ken said they didn't have anything on that, but could make recommendations.

6. Close – 2:15 pm

Approved: October 25th 2017