Minutes of the Academic Information Technology committee
3 September 2003

Present: Greg Anderson (Chair), Joe Benz, Sri Seshadri Dustin Kozal (student representative), Darleen Mitchell, Deb Schroeder, Janet Wilke (Interim library director)

Absent: Tom Hanson

Meeting was called to order by Anderson at 3:30

The first order of business was to decide on meeting dates for the fall semester. This was tabled until the end of the meeting.

Schroeder then provided an update the committee (below, with comments and discussions in *italics*) of things in ITS

Summary of ITS update for Spring and Summer, 2003
1. ITS now reports to Academic Affairs
   Web Presence Coordinator joined Office of Communications
   Helpdesk now has four full-time staff
   *These reorganizations are due at least in part to the budget reductions*
2. Otto Olsen 115 lab closed. Helpdesk now located in 115
   Don Ray has office in 115A
   *Otto Olsen is being remodeled to comply with the ADA (see below). This is causing space utilization changes. In addition, the computer lab in the union contains 36 machines, and is available 24/7, making the lab in OO somewhat redundant.*
3. Email counter located near Otto Olsen 115/Otto Olsen 116
   Email counter is “wireless”
   Schroeder asked for suggestions about other buildings/locations that could use a wireless email access point. Faculty are asked to email her with suggestions.
4. Deferred Maintenance project began in Otto Olsen
   Restrooms will be ADA compliant
   CSIS lab smaller and one ITS office moves to accommodate day care expansion
   ITEC lab will move to west end of building to make room for new offices
   Duane and Scott will be affected by restroom renovation
5. Blackboard was not upgraded to new version
   *UNL and UNO upgraded, and are reporting performance problems. Schroeder’s plan is to upgrade (maybe) between semesters, if the performance issues can be solved.*
6. New server for Student Information System
   Overnight processes remotely monitored
   New system laser printer installed
   University-wide committee investigating SIS needs
   *Central Administration is investigating a centralized SIS (Student Information System)*
7. New Web interface for Lotus Notes—iNotes. Not supported on Mac
   Antispam software operational
8. Additional fiber installed to library
   Mitchell Center wiring
   Men’s Hall wiring
With students assigned to Men’s hall, wiring needed to be completed/updated, as the wiring was originally installed to work for offices, not resident hall rooms. For example, servers and routers had to be relocated from shower areas.

Wireless network management
- The wireless network is a product called Roving Planet, and is working well.

Voice over IP test
- The University is testing “internet phones” that would work over out data networks instead of phone lines. Advantages would be reduced (eliminated?) telephone bills, and ease of programming things like office changes and the like. Testing will occur over the next six weeks.

Wireless connection to MONA
- The current wireless connection to MONA is operating at 40 Mbs, and is doing the job very well.

9. Smart Classrooms
- The following smart classrooms were added during the summer.
  - Cushing 120
  - BHS 204, 205
  - Otto Olsen 224
  - Mitchell Center—2 classrooms
  - Otto Olsen 127—projector and elmo
  - Otto Olsen 135—projector
  - Otto Olsen 138—elmo

10. Additional Dell discounts on personal purchases
- The University has negotiated additional discounts for Dell computers for faculty and students. Approximately $850 will buy a machine with 512 Mb of RAM, an Ethernet card, a large hard drive, and other options. See UNK Connections for specifics.

11. Microsoft agreement for students: Windows XP upgrade, Office XP/X $65
- This offer applies to students but not to faculty.

12. New audio encoder/server to Webcast athletics events

13. Two new laptops to check out. Both have wireless capability.
- There are various buildings on campus with wireless capabilities, including the Union. ITS has a list of the buildings.

14. Student Technology Fee increased from $5 to $6 per credit hour.

15. Effort under way to identify/upgrade/replace Windows 95/98 machines

16. Major concerns:
- Peer-to-peer/copyright
  - The recording industry is trying to subpoena the names of copyright violators on university campuses (with varying success), to try and stop users from sharing music files. While this hasn’t happened here, it may be only a matter of time.
- Virus problems
  - See current issues below.

Current issues:

Virus problems
- Things are going poorly at the moment. The Blaster and SoBig viruses are clogging things up, making the network practically useless. The residence halls are functioning as a virus reservoir, and very often the residence halls are offline completely. On Thursday (9/4), the residence halls will be disconnected from the network one at a time, and ITS staff will go room-to-room patching the operating system and installing virus protection on each machine. While this will almost certainly solve the problem, it will be tremendously labor-intensive.
Students in general have been really great during this problem, and deserve thanks for their positive attitude.

Schroeder indicated that the Helpdesk has the patch and virus protection software on a CD that all staff and students can check out to install on their home computers for free (the MacAfee license covers staff and student home computers, and the patch is free from Microsoft). Call the helpdesk for more information.

Wireless deployment

Galen Hadley visited Drexel University this summer as part of a tour with other UN administrators to look at a ‘smart’ campus, and see what we may be able to do along those lines. To Schroeder’s surprise, UNK is already doing almost all the things that Drexel is, with the exception of having a dual network (wired and wireless) to every building on campus. ITS is looking at campus-wide deployment of a wireless network using Roving Planet technology.

ESS

Employee Self Service (ESS) will be available to employees this fall for monitoring their personal information, etc. To access it, a person will need to be running Internet Explorer version 6 (IE6 is not available for Mac yet).

Intrusion Detection software

ITS is currently working on this. It functions very much like a firewall.

Replacement of SAN

The Storage Area Network (SAN) has a “known issue” with the hardware configuration. ITS is taking advantage of a trade-in, and will be replace the hardware in late September or early October, hopefully before a failure occurs.

Installation of redundant fiber link

With all the utility work was being done this spring, summer, and fall, a redundant fiber link is being installed to west campus as a backup/safety measure.

Selection of Web-based survey software

The committee was asked about the purpose of this software; was it for evaluation of faculty in online courses, or as a research tool? Discussion was wide-ranging, but several committee members commented that not enough was known of the product to give an adequate answer. Darren Addy will be invited to the next AIT meeting to discuss survey software and answer questions.

Coordination/Team Creation with Continuing Ed Instructional Designer

Schroeder asked if this committee wanted to be part of a team to work with continuing ed instructional designer for online courses. There was no consensus on this issue.

Tablet computing?

Schroeder indicated that Tablet Computing (wherein you write on the computer screen using a special stylus, and the computer can process that information) seems to be a hot area. She would be willing to put a little money behind this technology for classroom use. The committee members were mostly unaware of this technology. Schroeder will bring a demonstration to the next AIT meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 7th at 3:30 in the Library Conference Room, and will include two demonstrations; one of the web-based survey software, and one of the tablet PC hardware. Other faculty are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Benz