Edison State College  
Technology Committee Meeting

Friday, January 21, 2011

Mark Trask gave us an update on the technology for the new building under construction. In preparation they have installed two Ultra Smart Boards, one at Lee and one at Collier. They are also piloting the use of Ipads at the Lee Collegiate High School in place of textbooks. They have pros and cons including the question of insuring the devices against being dropped.

Mark also mentioned that they would look at retrofitting the new smart boards after they receive faculty feedback, which so far seems positive – there is apparently a good deal of interest from professors in Collier in having the classroom with the Ultra Smart board assigned to them.

Scott VanSelow asked about the software that is currently being used to sort through technology needs to find the best classroom for the needs of particular courses. Mark Trask said that the process is new and that hopefully it will be more efficient in a year or so.

Mark Trask then spoke to the possibility of moving all faculty to Outlook through Microsoft Exchange. The current use of two email systems is inefficient and Outlook offers superior features. He asked for suggestions to motivate faculty to make the switch. A volunteer program was suggested, along with offering training that would offer professional development credits.

Along with moving faculty to Outlook, Mark Savage talked of the possibility of moving students to Gmail, as it would eliminate the server space required to maintain it. It was suggested that moving the faculty first would make this process easier as it would eliminate one of the email programs that needed to be supported.

Scott VanSelow was asked to give a brief overview of a conference call on cloud computing with Gartner. They have an internship program available which is promising, but the discussion was mostly preliminary. Dennette Foy is going to follow up with Gartner later in the week.

Dobin Anderson spoke on the upcoming Learning Management System (LMS) transition. CE6 is being phased out and so a new LMS needs to be selected soon. Edison Online has been researching the available choices and hopes to have final recommendations soon. A timeline for the introduction of the new system was presented (a copy is attached along with this document). It was suggested that we run the new system concurrently with CE6 for a year beginning in fall of 2010 in order to move faculty over in cohorts.

A question was raised as to whether Portal tools should be eliminated. Ellie Bunting mentioned that new faculty will be required to go through LMS training which may make that a greater possibility. It was suggested that further discussion on this possibility would be made between IT and EOL.

Ellie Bunting suggested that with the disbandment of the E-learning committee that this committee may want to address the policy and procedures for redesigning courses. Dobin Anderson suggested that he would discuss this will Mary Myers and offer a policy at the next meeting.

Scott VanSelow commented that some professors are being lost because they are not willing to complete the full LMS training and that a certification level could be created for those using “master” courses. Dobin Anderson offered to bring this up with Edison Online for discussion. Scott also mentioned that we may want to lock access to courses for adjuncts in order to insure that the learning outcomes of the course are being met.