

Minutes from the

Sixth Meeting of the Task Force on Instructional Technology
Friday, May 7, 2004; Submitted by Richard Rogers on May 9, 2004

Richard welcomed the group and asked for comments, corrections to the April meeting minutes, which were handed out at the meeting as he had not emailed them previously. None were received. He then told of his PRS and OWL presentation to the UMass Board of Trustees at their May 4, 2004 meeting on the Amherst campus and his subsequent meeting with President Jack Wilson. Richard is encouraged by President Wilson's interest in our Instructional Technology efforts. [see: http://www.dailyhampshiregazette.com/storytmp.cfm?id_no=5050023]

Mei-Yau Shih gave a brief update from the Training and Implementation subcommittee and will present a final report with their recommendations sorted by priorities at our next meeting. Richard gave an update on the Classroom subcommittee's work and that can be seen at the web site: <http://www.umass.edu/provost/initiatives/it/index.html>

Richard also reported on the Hardware subcommittee's recommendation to seek a campus-wide adoption of the Tablet PC as our student-computing mobile device. He added that it is the right tool for active learning; mobile, has ink technology, is small enough to work in classrooms yet large enough to handle most student work. See the full recommendation at the web site. The group debated the details and the benefits and costs of uniformity (efficiency v. security, and you will never reach total uniformity), but encouraged the subcommittee to continue to explore the idea and to bring back a more specific recommendation. Whatever device we choose, we must add sufficient value to convince students and parents that it was a useful, wise investment. But unless we adopt a policy, we may not generate the interest in creating the added value. Using the Tablet PCs in English 112 is a major target, but not sufficient. Creation of grading tools for electronic exchanges between students and instructor would lower administrative costs and add value to both students and instructors. Actual support may hinge on just how attractive the price and the "terms and conditions" we negotiate with a supplier. We do realize you pay more for the mobile device than you would for a more powerful desktop machine, but desktops don't solve the mobility issue and hence prevent use in classrooms.

Richard also reported on the Platforms subcommittee report (also see web site) and called attention to our need to support both WebCT and OWL, but that CCBIT should separate its service function of OWL from research and innovation on emerging instructional technologies (including continual improvements to OWL itself, like linking PRS and OWL into a seamless product). Dave Hart gave a presentation on the funding of CCBIT and the serious implications of the planned reduction in their budget (see web site).

Richard suggested that the service function of OWL be moved from CCBIT to an expanded Learning Support Services (LSS) that would handle the current student learning support but expand to maintain OWL and assist new users of OWL. AIMS would also move to LSS to support classroom IT and video productions. The research component of CCBIT would become a unit in the Center for Teaching. We also hope that CVIP will eventually do a better job finding commercial value in OWL and other successful products from CCBIT. Dave said he supported the idea of moving support to LSS and the entire group embraced the idea in general and asked the Organization and Funding subcommittee to pursue it. The question was raised if LSS would also support WebCT or if it would stay in Academic Computing. This question was not answered and is sent on to the Organization and Funding subcommittee to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m..

Those present (absent = x) at the May 7, 2004 meeting.

Instructional Technology Task Force				
	Name	Department	Building	Campus Phone
	1 Beatrice Botch	Chemistry	Lederle GR Tower	5-0442
	2 Bob Feldman (ec)	Psychology	Tobin Hall	5-0130
zzz	3 Copper Giloth	Academic Computing	Lederle GRC	5-4833
	4 David Hart	CCBIT	Computer Science Building	5-3278
	5 Donna Zucker	Nursing/Online	Arnold House	5-1343
x	6 Gino Sorcinelli	Accounting and Information System	Isenberg School of Management	5-5636
	7 Glenn Caffery	IT and Resource Economics	Stockbridge Hall	5-2554
x	8 Jose Mestre	Physics	Lederle GR Tower	5-2040
x	9 Laetitia Amelia La Follette	ArtHistory	Bartlett Hall	5-0634
	10 Lee Osterweil (ec)	Dean, NSM	B715 Lederle; 722	5-1785
	11 Linda Lowery	OnLine/Continuing Ed	358 N. Pleasant Street	5-2111
	12 Linda Slakey (ec)	Dean, Commonwealth College	504 Goodell	577-3902
	13 Lori Mestre	Library	W.E.B. DuBois Library	5-6851
x	14 Mary L. McCulloch	Professional Education for Engineeri	113 Marcus Hall	545-0063
	15 Mei-Yau Shih (ec)	Center for Teaching	Goodell Building	5-1225
	16 Richard Rogers (chair)	Faculty Advisor to the Provost	372 Whitmore	5-2554
	17 Rick Adrion	Computer Sceince	Computer Science Building	5-2475
x	18 Robert Maloy	School of Ed		
x	19 Steve Goodwin	Associate Dean, NRE	Stockbridge Hall	
	20 Steve Pielock	AIMS	Goodell Building	5-5768
x = absent				
(ec) : executive committee				

zzz = Kate Hudson attended in place of Copper