

Library, Media, and Academic Computing Committee Minutes October 4, 2002

Present: Patrick O'Neil, Bill Barry, Rayna Flye, Eric Scharrer, Renee Houston, Rob Hutchinson, Zaixin Hong, Kent Hooper, Geoff Proehl, John Lear, Peter Greenfield, Elizabeth Knight (for Marilyn Mitchell), Michael Nanfito (for Norman Imamshah), Mark Young (OIS visitor).

Chair O'Neil called the meeting to order at 2pm, and the minutes of September 16 were approved as circulated. In search of a victim to take minutes for the remainder of the semester, the chair's evil eye fell on Greenfield, who grumped a bit, but in the end tugged his forelock and pulled out his pen.

Blackboard Training. Barry passed out an outline of the Blackboard training program developed with RAMCO, and mentioned that the amount of time needed for each of the elements—within a 2 ½ hour training session, is still to be determined. The webboard or chatroom element of Blackboard will not be included in the initial training sessions, as faculty have varying ideas on the utility of webboard, but Shelley Owen will offer webboard training later for interested parties.

The first training session will be on October 17, a “beta test” for the training, involving faculty with experience using Blackboard, LMAC members. The first regular training session will be on October 29 from 1-3:30pm. 2 or 3 sessions will be held during Reading Period at the end of fall semester, and 3 or 4 the week before classes begin in January. The last group of sessions will allow faculty to actually set up one or more spring classes on Blackboard during the training session.

Proehl noted that the gradebook function didn't appear to be covered in the training session, and there was some discussion of various grading programs used by faculty, and whether Blackboard would offer the same abilities. Other faculty suggested that it would be useful to see what other faculty had already achieved with Blackboard. After some discussion of whether there would be time for that during the training session, the idea arose of putting on a “teaser” session of perhaps an hour to show existing Blackboard courses to faculty contemplating using it. Other suggestions included having some more advanced training sessions for faculty who are more comfortable with computing, and asking RAMCO to let us know what we can't do with the particular release of Blackboard we currently have. Barry asked that faculty with suggestions about the training sessions should send them to him or preferably to Shelley Owen.

Corporate Time. Mark Young from OIS made a presentation on the use of the Corporate Time program. The initial use for faculty would be to have department secretaries enter class times and office hours for all department faculty, in order to facilitate using Corporate Time to schedule committee meetings. Young showed how to set up meetings using the program. He also showed how individuals can control access to their own calendars. (E.g., faculty can mark out times they are unavailable, but other users cannot see what the reasons for reserved times are. Faculty can give different users different levels of access to their calendars.) A brief discussion of the program's capabilities ensued, incl. that it doesn't have a built-in database, one has to exit the program to use Eudora, etc.

The discussion of Corporate Time took us right up to the 3 o'clock hour, so discussion of the OIS strategic plan was put off until the next meeting, which will happen three weeks hence.

Obsequiously submitted,

Peter Greenfield