

ETCS/OLS Academic Leadership Council Meeting
9:00-10:00 am in ET 206
September 23, 2003, Minutes

Present: Hal Broberg, Mary Jane Casiano, Coleen DeLong, Carol Dostal,
David Erbach, Paul Lin, Kim McDonald, Sarah Merchant, Ken Perry,
Wayne Unsell, Gerard Volland, Nash Younis

Minutes of September 16, 2003 were approved.

Mobile Technology Update: As a member of the ITPC sub-committee on mobile and wireless technology, Wayne Unsell reported on a three-phase plan for encouraging the use of mobile technology by students and faculty. The third phase is to ultimately require all students to have some experience and familiarity with the use of mobile technology. Phase one is a pilot study in which individual faculty will be using this technology in some of their courses. A call for proposals will go out to faculty later this semester inviting them to participate in this pilot study during Spring 2004. In preparation for this upcoming pilot phase, Wayne volunteered to use tablets and wireless technology in his CAET course (with 18 students) and report back to the subcommittee.

He identified 7 items that were significant in the course transformation and the learning process:

1. Students exhibited genuine excitement when loaned the tablets to use throughout the semester. Wayne encouraged them to use the tablets as much as possible...in his course, at work, and in their other classes.
2. Students were more enthusiastic about the course material
3. Students worked together, in teams of three, more effectively in the lab. In the past, it was typical that only one student prepared the spreadsheets and used the computer. Now everyone is involved in plotting the real-time data and preparing the spreadsheets.
4. Students were more involved in group interactions. They have been using their tablets in our building's lobby. Wayne sees a possibility of having areas outside IPFW configured for wireless technology (such as nearby coffee houses).
5. Students became more involved in field work as they developed solutions to the River Greenway failure on the Maumee.
6. Students were able to download any original drawings and sketch the field conditions with their tablets. They also could import digital photographs.
7. Wayne used the WebCT and offered PowerPoint presentations through this technology. In addition, students kept journals of their own notes as well as Wayne's course notes.

Wayne also noted that information on the tablets can be backed up to server. He recommends that students buy USB drives. Students can print through the network with local access. All the labs have access to USBs.

There was a slight glitch when students had 2 or 3 classes sequentially because the tablets' battery power then became very low; to overcome this problem, we will need a sufficient number of power outlets in classrooms.

Discussion of mobile technology then led into space study considerations for the ET building. Reconfiguring the building into more of an experiential learning environment in which mobile (and other) technologies are utilized may be very worthwhile, and the space study committee should consider such a reconfiguration during their deliberations. There also was discussion about space designs that would encourage collaborations with other schools and facilitate the development of additional Gen-Ed courses in technology for non-technical students. It was noted that the First Year Initiative will involve team teaching across disciplines that could include communication via technology.

Gerard will ask the ETCS Assembly chair to schedule a meeting of the Assembly in which these issues can be discussed further.

Handouts distributed to chairs: 1) draft of the CS Student Advisory Board, 2) ECET Faculty Mentoring Policy, 3) Comparison Guide to IPFW Engineering and Technology ABET Accredited Degrees, and 4) CS Professional Advisory Board information.

The next meeting of this group on Tuesday, September 30, 2003, at 9:00-10:00 am in ET 206 will focus on the development of a distinctive identity for the School that will support the strategic vision of each department and that of the university. Each chair should prepare a brief summary of the strategic vision for her or his department for distribution at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jane Casiano, Secretary