

Technology and Library Committee
Queens College, CUNY
Minutes of the Meeting: October 28, 2004

Present: S. Bonk, A. Bronstein, E. Fernández, S. Henderson (guest), N. Husain, K. Lord, A. Love, C. Vickery, S. Warwick

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

2. Joint presentation by Henderson and Husain

Warwick introduced the presenters and briefly described the Committee's charge, requesting that the speakers address how they envision the Committee's operations given such a charge.

An overview of the presentation was offered by Henderson: irrespective of the ultimate technologies employed in teaching and learning, what is the underlying pedagogy and what impact does it have on learning?

Husain framed his remarks by noting that his department's recent name change --- to the Office of Converging Technologies (OCT) --- implies a change in service. The telecommunications group has joined the former Office of Information Technology, to create a more inclusive and forward-looking team. Husain described OCT's mission as that of providing reliable and secure information and communication services to regular users (students, faculty, staff, alumni, etc.) as well as to incidental users (prospective students, donors, etc.). Currently OCT is focusing on projects including the following:

- solidifying the server infrastructure (Active Directory Service and LDAT)
- creating systems for accreditation (E-portfolios, Oracle-based system for NCATE)
- expanding support services (increased hours for help desk, zoned support with coordinators for different areas of the campus)
- enhancing and expanding web-based services (redesigning web; creating a portal; standardizing databases; centralizing Blackboard; online applications for CPE registration, faculty workload reports, attendance, etc.)

Henderson focused on present and future trends in the use of technology for teaching and learning. Within the College, faculty initiative and the recently instituted technology fee has promoted the use of technology across the campus. The recent General Education review recognizes information literacy as a crucial skill to impart to students, but Henderson noted that technology could be employed to improve just about all areas of the curriculum. Henderson distributed a report from the Educause Center for Applied Research (ECAR; http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ecar_so/ers/ers0405/Ekf0405.pdf), summarizing the findings of a recent study that examines how technology impacts learning, outlining some of the barriers, and describing future trends. Looking to the future, Henderson listed the following projects:

- funding and implementing a pilot project for the Arts and Humanities division (collaboration with Fernández and Bill McClure, CMAL)
- exploring possible uses of SAKAI (open source course management system)
- distributing tablets to faculty for instructional purposes
- generating learning objects: MERLOT

- employing mobile computing for fieldwork
- implementing e-portfolios
- making technology transparent to the learning process

Following the presentation, the floor was opened to discussion. Topics covered included the following: designing and funding a Center for Teaching and Learning; re-designing curricula to include technology; staffing and support issues in labs.

Respectfully submitted,
E. Fernández
Recording Secretary
eva_fernandez@qc.edu