

Modesto Junior College
ITC Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2010
Approved Minutes

Co-chairs: Jim Clarke, Tobin Clarke

Present: Gaither Loewenstein, Yoseph Demissie, Ernie Medrano, Ellen Dambrosio, Nancy Backlund, Nancee Carrillo, Mel Ainsworth

Absent: Josh Hash, Lawrence Scheg, Alex Cordova, John Zamora, Dale Phillips, Will Lotko

Recorder: Jennifer Ahlswede

1. Review of Minutes

Notes are correct and approved from the September 28, 2010.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. District IT Report – Yoseph

There is continued concern about inactive student email accounts and students not reading important messages sent to their inboxes. Tobin suggested sending out a survey asking students what type of emails they would like to receive. Currently, only 60% of 41,000 emails are actually delivered to students' inboxes. Some departments require students to use their student email for correspondence, such as Financial Aid and Admissions. Tobin will bring up the email issue at the next IAC meeting, encouraging deans to have their faculty use student email only when corresponding with students.

We are learning higher education institutions are moving toward a portal solution. For us, this could mean integrating Blackboard 9 with student email, requiring a single log-in where students have access to all things college-related. MJC has been discussing the single log-in idea for years, but nothing has come to fruition. The decision to move forward with this must be a top-down directive. This idea is conveyed in the District Technology Plan, which was approved by the board. Obtaining a grant would be ideal for implementing this. Initial planning and programming will need to be done, which will require extra help, but once the programming and back-end work has been done, it can be passed off to IT to maintain. This concept should also be included in the MJC Technology Plan. IT is currently reviewing their Technology Plan and would like to look over the MJC Technology Plan so they can coordinate their efforts with us.

We have a strategic plan including infrastructural readiness for the campus technologies and future technical planning (data centers, thin clients, etc.). We are in the design phase of building a data center, but the implementation date is not yet set. The discovery phase of this project is complete. Using a thin client solution will have implications on the data center, which can be planned with a thin client solution built in. We would like to pilot thin clients in smaller quantities in new buildings, such as in an Allied Health computer lab.

3. Dell Lease Issues

Dr. Loewenstein asked the committee for input on the Dell lease program. We are phasing out the lease program and interested in pursuing a few different options. We would like to build some of the PCs in-house, pilot a thin client solution in some areas, and other areas may require leased systems. When implementing the thin client solution, we plan to move cautiously. We need to look at the funding issues. In

the long-run it will be more economical to move toward thin clients, however, initially, the cost will be great. We need to assess what the back-end requires and set up testing before we can fully plan this solution.

Dr. Lowenstein asked if he were able to secure some funding, what's more important, people or technology. We cannot implement technology without people, so the President plans to use extra funding to staff positions, then if there is funding still left, it can be spent on technology.

We currently have 675 systems that are so antiquated that they cannot be upgraded and must be replaced. There are another 300-400 systems that should be replaced. We should put money into the systems than can be made into thin clients down the road.

We are not certain that the new building projects include computers as part of the project cost. If not, it's assumed that Technology Services will provide the systems for these new buildings. We recommend that new buildings must include technology as well as a hardware refresh plan. We need to look at these new buildings and figure out the number of systems required with cost figures. This needs to be added to our Technology Plan as an addendum.

Another issue we're facing is that we are limited on the number of computers we currently have in inventory. We are installing very old systems for users that do not require high-end computing. There are no rules or limits as to what we can and cannot install for our users. Mel will be working with Tobin on putting together an inventory of the older computers on campus.

4. Web Hosting & Front End Developer Position

We may be assigning someone to handle the Front End Web Developer position in the interim. We need to go out again and get a new pool of applicants as the two qualified applicants did not pass the written test and were not interviewed for the position.

5. Other

ITC will soon go through the ***Standard III C: Technology Resources*** portion of the accreditation report. Dr. Lowenstein will review it first and make his changes before ITC reviews the document. There will be a meeting soon to review the document and make our revisions.

Clement is no longer with the college. We are working on having Nadia Vartan as the Interim Media and Technology Services Director and should be able to start her after the November board meeting. We will open the position and interview again.

ADJOURNMENT