

Modesto Junior College
ITC Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2010
Approved Minutes

Co-chairs: Jim Clarke, Tobin Clarke

Present: Karen Walters Dunlap, Alex Cordova, Mel Ainsworth, John Zamora, Ernie Medrano, Dale Phillips, Clement Xavier, Will Lotko, Jenni Abbott, Ellen Dambrosio

Absent: Josh Hash, Lawrence Scheg, Nancee Carrillo, Nancy Backlund, Yoseph Demissie

Recorder: Jennifer Ahlswede

1. Review of Minutes

Notes are correct and approved from the March 23, 2010 meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Presidential Taskforce on Technology – John Zamora

The focus of this taskforce is to look at innovations in technology as it applies to grants. We look at instructional technologies, DE options/Blackboard, classroom technology needs, the computer replacement plan, videoconferencing equipment, and computer labs, all relating to grants. Yoseph Demissie, Leslie Collins, Clement Xavier, Jenni Abbott and John Zamora are all members of this taskforce which met several times over the summer.

There has been significant movement in open source, by way of textbooks and software. Open source is used in a centralized location in electronic format. We are currently looking at funding potential, such as grants for women in computing science. We are researching what other institutions are doing and we are finding out some fascinating information. For example, MIT has a huge pool of open source material available for their students.

George Boodrookas is heading up the Presidential Taskforce for Patterson. There is a grant for this project and there is now a new timeline with changes made to the project. George will be sharing this information with the Planning and Budget Committee.

John will report back to the ITC after Presidential Taskforce meetings. If there are items you would like this group to investigate, please let John know.

2. Technology Survey – Jenni Abbott

Jenni has put together three surveys (for faculty, staff, and students) which will be used to gather foundational data for each grant to make a case for why we need funding. Karen Walters Dunlap suggested we utilize Ken Hart to target students. He has a 48% response rate when surveying students. Most of the questions were pulled from a national survey, except some of the terminology has been changed to fit our institution. Faculty need to see the value in taking this survey. It was recommended to contact Mike Adams so we can get information about the survey on the next Academic Senate meeting agenda. Grants come and go quickly, so the sooner we collect these data, the better.

All grants Jenni has seen have technology tied to them. The IT staff survey should include District IT, Media and Technology Services, technical instructors, lab technicians, etc. Jenni will need a list of all these

individuals. Jenni will only pursue a grant if it is in line with our strategic goals. Long-term impact the funding will bring is also addressed, such as staffing needs, building needs, technical needs, etc.

The survey is currently set up to be administered through Survey Monkey.

3. Technology and Media Services – Clement Xavier

The computers we have on campus range from as old as 12 years to current date. The older computers are causing issues for the campus, such as not being capable of running a virus scan. There are 1500 computers on the Dell lease and another 1500 not on the Dell lease. Some offices have had to shut down their services because of their old, poorly-functioning computers (ex: Business Office). Fortunately, the Business Office recently received new computers.

The budget we have is not sufficient to replace the old computers and bring them up to an acceptable standard. We only have \$450k available annually to upgrade computers on campus.

We have a variety of computer users; some require high computing capacity and some require very little. Currently, the total cost of ownership per machine is approximately \$1700. We have been able to produce a smaller computer and recycle old hard drives, LCD screens, etc. and bring the cost down to approximately \$500 per machine. We piloted this smaller system in the ASMJC office, and it has been successful.

We calculate approximately 80% of computer users can use a lower-end machine and 20% require a high-end machine. If we can provide each group with the computing power they require, we will be able to significantly stretch our dollar.

We are currently formulating a plan to bring our campus up to a minimum standard of computing within a four year period, and then maintain that minimum standard. John Zamora is working with Clement on this project.

This year, we plan not to acquire leased computers from Dell. Our plan is to purchase RAM to get us by until we are able to implement the first phase of this new upgrade plan. The new upgrade plan will be included in the Technology Plan, which the President has been reading. We may not abandon the lease program entirely. We may choose to continue leasing higher-end computers for some and purchase equipment to build smaller computers for most.

Technology Services' staff has essentially been Dell service/maintenance technicians. They have been obtaining parts required to repair computers and providing the installation of these parts. This new plan should not impact the department greatly, as far as technical support. When purchasing equipment to build the smaller computers, we will warehouse a number of extra parts (power supplies, motherboards, hard drives, etc.) for quick repairs and maintenance. If we can get the cost of these smaller machines down low enough, we can simply swap out an older broken machine with a new one. Gallo follows this model.

We need to make sure the District and MJC are following the same standard for minimum computing levels. The District has their own Technology Plan, which we will look at and have discussions with District to bring us both to the same level.

Clement was notified that the District Helpdesk is moving toward becoming an information desk. This will create a gap in services. Who will provide the Helpdesk functions? Technology Services is going to be greatly impacted.

During the summer of 2011, there will be a number of new projects, new buildings and swing space. This summer we had tremendous help by hiring a group of students to assist in the Pirates Village project. We would not have been able to complete this without them. We will require students next summer to provide unsupervised work. We currently do not have the capacity to staff these projects with our regular full-time staff.

4. Distance Education Issues – Jim Clarke

Columbia College has fully moved into Blackboard 9. We have six faculty members using it. Blackboard 9 is improving, though the back end is still very different, so moving things across is still time consuming. Jim has been on the phone with Blackboard and the migration should soon be worked out, so the move across will be easier. The interface is different, so learning it will take some time.

5. Update of Technology Plan

The current Technology Plan is being read, so we need to do our part to update it. The Title V group, Dr. Lowenstein and others have been reading it, and if the plan is not current, with required funding issues included, future funding will not be considered. It must align with our Program Reviews.

6. Front End Web Developer Replacement

The candidates for interviewing for this position will be selected soon and interviews scheduled. We should be able to hire this position in November after the board meets. The migration away from Virtual will have to be postponed. The shutoff also must be delayed.

ADJOURNMENT