Meeting Notes from 06/18/10, 10:00 am, Weir Hall Room 107

Members Present: Penny Rice, Melissa Dennis, Debra Riley-Huff, Ruth Mirtz, Joseph Gladden, Wayne Shaw, Patricia Oswalt, Debra Scardino

Guests Present: Johnny Price

Ole Miss Website for Mobile Devices:

Rice reported that m.olemiss.edu, a mobile version of the Ole Miss Web site, is now available. Currently, links for news, calendar, weather, area map, iTunes U, e-mail, contact information, and pride of the south (.mp3 files) are provided. IT is working to add new features – many of which were recommended by this committee in the spring – such as, text message your students, view class rolls (with photo option), view pay stub, lookup class schedule (including location), check grades, search campus directory, view campus map, access emergency contact info, etc. The committee members had great interest in this project and were excited to hear about the additional features that will make accessing campus services from a mobile device much easier.

Blackboard Mobile Learn:

Rice told the committee about Blackboard Mobile Learn, a product, recently released by Blackboard, Inc., which provides a nice interface to access Blackboard on a mobile device. Blackboard has made this software available for free for iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch users over a wi-fi connection. It is also free for Sprint users with an Android or Blackberry while on the Sprint network. To make it accessible to other users, (i.e. iPhone users over the AT&T network or Cellular South users with a smart phone) Blackboard wants to charge Universities a fee based on their enrollment. The cost for our campus would be $30,000. This price also includes Blackboard's Mobile solutions package, with which they are bundling Mobile Learn. Because we run SAP, and have access to an SAP mobile solution, we do not need the Blackboard mobile package. We've expressed this to Blackboard and requested that they reconsider making the Mobile Learn software available separately at a reduced cost.

Rice demoed the Blackboard Mobile Learn software on an iPad. The consensus of the committee was that the software looked nice and could be very helpful for students, but Blackboard's pricing strategy was unreasonable.

Apple iPad:

Rice demoed an Apple iPad and passed it around for committee members to try. Rice showed several useful applications, such as, Calendar, Keynote (presentations), Pages (word processing), Numbers (spreadsheet), and iBooks.

Classroom Technology Project:

Price gave an update on Classroom Technology rooms that were completed this year.

All of the classrooms that this committee approved last fall have been completed. When working on the room in Coulter, it was determined that the two HDTV monitors that the committee had recommended for this room were not large enough to be seen from the back of the auditorium. The provost office provided additional funds that allowed for the installation of an additional projector, corner-mounted screen, and new Extron control system in this room.

Other projects completed as part of classroom technology this year were as follows:
- Guyton Hall Annex – Rooms 119, 207, 208, and 209 received a ceiling mounted projector, projection screen, wall connection panel, and computer.
- Old Chemistry – Room 134 received a full lectern setup.
- Old Chemistry – Rooms 138, 201, 235, 244, and 238 received a ceiling mounted projectos, projection screen, and wall connection panel.
- Old Walmart Classroom – Received a ceiling mounted projector, projection screen, and wall connection panel.
- Bondurant – Room 004 received a ceiling mounted projector, projection screen, and wall connection panel.

Rice reported that this committee will not be taking requests for new Classroom Technology projects this year. Instead, we will use this year to provide maintenance on aging equipment, and work on several classrooms and a computer lab in the newly constructed North Residential College. The Carrier renovation project will require us to remove equipment from four existing classroom technology rooms and to restore this equipment to classrooms once the renovation has been completed.

This committee will, however, take requests for wireless access in buildings on campus. The provost office has agreed to provide $20,000 towards installing wireless in several buildings. Rice is developing a web form and will send it out to department chairs asking them to recommend places for wireless access. This committee will meet again soon to look over and approve requests.

iTunes U:

Rice showed the committee the University of Mississippi iTunes U site (www.olemiss.edu/itunesu). Some of the members were unfamiliar with iTunes U, so Rice explained that it is a service offered by Apple, Inc. that allows a University to post audio and video podcasts and makes them available through iTunes. iTunes U sites can be either public (accessible to anyone) or private (accessible only to certain users). The private portion of our iTunes U site is handled through a Blackboard plugin. Instructors can enable iTunes within their Blackboard course, and only the students in that course will be allowed to access podcasts posted to that course's iTunes U site.

Rice charged the committee with creating an iTunes U policy for our campus. Members will look over other school's policies and send their comments and ideas to Rice to include in our policy.

The meeting was dismissed at 11:05 am.