Meeting Notes from 05/06/08, 1:30pm, Weir Hall Room 107

Members Present: Maurice Eftink, Penny Rice, MK Smith, Christina Torbert, Elizabeth Stephan, Greg Tschumper, Joseph Gladden, Kathy Gates

Classroom Technology

Kathy Gates spoke to the committee about equipment being purchased for the Presidential Debate that will be held this September at Ole Miss and possible plans to re-use this equipment for Classroom Technology.

- Around 200 HDTV monitors will be needed for the debate. We'd like to purchase some of these monitors and lease the rest. After the debate, the ones that we've purchased could then be placed in classrooms as part of this year's Classroom Technology project.

- We will purchase 46" monitors to go in the Media Tent at the debate. The remaining monitors will be 32" and will go in the Music Building and be used for rate card rentals. We will lease the 32" monitors.

- Kathy provided a list of all classrooms on campus. Already existing Classroom Technology rooms were noted on the list. Of the remaining rooms, Kathy highlighted those with a seating capacity of 35 or less. These would be the candidate rooms to receive one of the 46" monitors. The monitor size would be too small for larger classrooms. Someone suggested that we might be able to place several monitors in the larger classrooms to take the place of one large screen at the front.

- If we place the monitors in classrooms, they will need to be mounted on the wall or placed on some type of cart. Kathy recommended that we purchase stands similar to the one at http://www.bestpricemounts.com/Peerless-SR560G-Universal-Flat-Panel-TV-Cart-for-32-60-LCD-and-Plasma-Screens-(mounting-interface-included).html?categoryID=196&src=google2&gclid=CLqys_jP95ICFQKnlgod_lp2Gw.

- It was decided that we would purchase around 40 monitors and stands from the funds that the provost office provides each year for classroom technology. We will meet again this summer to decide in which classrooms to place the monitors. At that time, we will also consider a limited number of requests for projectors/lecterns to be placed in larger classrooms.

TACIT

Rice mentioned that computers purchased for the debate, which will only be used that one day, will be re-imaged, re-boxed, and distributed to faculty as part of this year's TACIT program. Because we will already have the computers on hand at the end of the debate, TACIT will take place earlier this year than usual. TACIT training will most likely be the week of October 13-17 or 20-24. Rice suggested that we let faculty use the actual computer that they will be getting during training. When the training session is finished, the faculty member can take the computer back to their office.

Technology Enhancement Week

Rice mentioned that Technology Enhancement Week, which is held around the second week in September, will need to be moved this year because the IT staff that typically teach the workshops will be tied up preparing for the debate. She suggested that we combine Technology Enhancement Week with TACIT training opportunities. The committee approved this idea.

Blackboard

Rice mentioned that we have postponed installing the CourseFeed Blackboard building block that was demoed at our last meeting due to the fact that Blackboard is releasing their own Blackboard Sync building block later this month. Both building blocks connect Blackboard to Facebook so that a student can view his Blackboard announcements and course documents through his Facebook account. We will test Blackboard's version of this software and see which we like better before making a decision on which to install.

The meeting was dismissed at 2:30pm.