

## Meeting Notes from July 2011 - Email Correspondence

**Members Present:** Melissa Dennis, Maurice Eftink, Ruth Mirtz, Patricia Oswald, Penny Rice, Debra Riley-Huff, Debra Scardine, Wayne Shaw, Gregory Tschumper, Rachel Willis, Kelly Wilson

### **Classroom Technology Project:**

The Classroom Technology Project will not consider requests for LCD projectors, lecterns, projection screens, etc. this year. Instead, classroom technology staff will use this year to perform maintenance on existing classroom technology classrooms, replacing/repairing aging equipment as needed.

At our last meeting, it was mentioned that the provost office was providing \$20,000 to put in wireless access points in academic areas on campus. On behalf of our committee, Rice sent out an email to all academic department chairs asking for recommendations of areas in which they had a need for wireless access. The responses to that email were as follows:

#### Bishop Hall - recommended by Joe Ward

Many faculty members now make active use of more than one computer at a time, so wireless would reduce considerably the inconvenience of switching the capable between machines and also make it possible for a faculty member to use two machines at once. Also, having wireless would facilitate research and/or teaching activities, such as conducting small graduate research seminars in faculty offices during which time four or five people could be accessing different spots on the internet simultaneously. Finally, many of our graduate and undergraduate students have their own portable computers, and wireless would allow them to access the internet between classes or potentially, and when appropriate, during class; most undergraduate HIS seminars and graduate classes meet in third-floor seminar rooms in Bishop, and these rooms do not have internet access at the moment.

#### Peabody - recommended by Michael T. Allen

We would ideally like to have all of Peabody Hall covered. We have faculty research labs and a computer lab with about 20 computers on the first floor, 3 large classrooms and other smaller classrooms on the second floor, and many faculty offices, faculty labs, a conference room, and a lounge on the third floor. Peabody Hall is a compact enough building that a single wireless hub should easily cover the building. We have large numbers of students and faculty who would benefit from wireless access. We have around 650 psychology majors who are in the building most every day and who could benefit from wireless. We also have around 60 graduate students which is one of the largest groups on campus. New graduate students now expect to be able to have wireless access as most have laptops with wireless capability. Our computer lab currently has hardwired ethernet ports to all of the computers in the room (Peabody 110), but it is becoming harder and harder for us to maintain these desktop computers in good working condition. As students more

and more have their own computers, it seems to me that having wireless internet access for students with personal computers may be the more likely way to deal with computer-based instruction in the future. So I think the main argument for providing a wireless hub in Peabody is that we have large numbers of undergraduate and graduate students who could benefit from this access.

Summerville - recommended by Glenn Schove

In accordance with the University of Mississippi's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), the Center for Writing and Rhetoric (CWR) has been created and is currently housed in Somerville Hall. One important requirement of the QEP is the establishment of support services by CWR for teachers and indirectly for students. Wireless networking would provide the technological support needed by CWR teachers, especially for those who visit the pedagogy center and who conduct or attend workshops in the CWR conference room. Wireless networking in Somerville Hall would directly support the goals of the QEP and positively impact the steps the university is taking to maintain accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Approximately 90 graduate students, graduate instructors, and adjunct instructors in Somerville Hall would directly benefit from this service as they will be required to use wireless services while utilizing the CWR e-portfolio system, which will be mandatory in the classrooms where all Engl 100, Engl 101, Engl 102, and Liba 102 classes will be offered beginning Fall 2011.

Coulter - recommended by Charles L. Hussey

Coulter class rooms 200, 201, and 204, as well as the Coulter Hall Foyer, which is a heavily used study area. Coulter 422 (computer laboratory) Student and faculty use laptops in these areas of the building for teaching, to complete class assignments, to prepare lab reports, and to access Black Board when studying. In addition, Summer Orientation registration is carried out in these locations.

Bishop, Hume, and Bondurant - recommended by Holly Reynolds

All floors of Bishop, Hume, and Bondurant. The faculty members of History, English, Modern Languages, and Mathematics wish to have wireless internet and have requested it in the past to numerous offices, including the Office of the Dean in the College of Liberal Arts. In some cases, the departments were deterred by the high cost of the resulting quote for that service. Most importantly, the following message is from Bob Cummings, director of the Center for Writing and Rhetoric. "The CWR is in urgent need of additional wireless access, especially in Hume, Bishop, and Bondurant, where the majority its mandatory core courses are taught. Wireless access is essential to the program as we have committed to SACS to teach writing with electronic portfolios, have invested \$24,000 an e-port platform, yet remain unable to utilize it in classrooms without wireless." Therefore, I am requesting that the faculty offices, open spaces where students gather to work informally, and the classrooms in all three buildings receive wireless internet service. It is this need for wireless in the classrooms that receives our highest priority.

Lenoir - recommended by Dr. Mary Roseman, Chair

We request wireless access in the following rooms/spaces on the first floor of Lenoir Hall: Classrooms: Rooms 101, 106, 107 Student lounge: Main lobby of Lenoir Hall (Room 100) Student computer room: Room 110 Student laboratories: Rooms 102, 103, 111, 116 Lenoir Hall is the home of the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management (NHM). It had 452 undergraduate and 22 graduate students in spring 2010 with projected increase in enrollment over the next few years. Currently, the building is not up-to-date with modern technology; lacking wireless access in its classrooms, computer/study rooms, laboratories, and public spaces. We have had numerous request by students for wireless access. Wireless would improve the overall learning spaces in the building and would be extremely beneficial to NHM undergraduate and graduate students.

Rice tasked the committee with prioritizing these requests based on the level of greatest need for wireless service and the most benefit to users. The provost office will provide \$20,000 for this project. This will not cover all of these buildings, but based on the committee's rankings, we'll see how far we can go with the given funds.

After some discussion, the committee prioritized the buildings as follows:

- 1 – Peabody (Psychology)
- 2,3,4 – Hume, Bishop, Bondurant (Liberal Arts)
- 5 – Chemistry (Coulter)
- 6 – Lenoir (NHM)
- 7 – Summerville (CWR)

Based on these rankings, the Network Group provided cost estimates for the top four buildings on the list. The combined cost for Peabody, Hume, Bishop, and Bondurant is \$75,000. IT is willing to contribute \$48,000 of leftover debate equipment to this project. This will bring the cost down to \$27,000. This project was only granted \$20,000 originally, but the Provost office was willing to increase this amount to the full \$27,000 needed. So Peabody, Hume, Bishop, and Bondurant will receive wireless networking through the Classroom Technology Project this year.