Academic Senate
Technology and Library Committee
Queens College of CUNY

Minutes of the Meeting: October 25, 2005

ATTENDANCE

Members: E. Fernández, A. Love, and C. Vickery.

Ex Officio: N. Husain, S. Kaufmann, and K. Lord.

Guests: J. Barnes (OCT), S. Henderson (President's Office)

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

E. Fernández (chair) called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm in the Chief Librarian's conference room.

There were no minutes available to approve.

The chair read the agenda, and it was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

One student member, S. Onyewuenyi, has resigned from the committee.

N. Husain announced that there will be a Technology Fair at the college on November 7, with representatives of Apple, Blackboard, Computer Associates, IBM, Intel, and Microsoft in attendance.

K. Lord announced that the University Faculty Senate has circulated an email from the president of Medgar Evers calling on the University to adopt a policy that the use of technology should be a consideration in tenure and promotion procedures.

K. Lord mentioned that WebCT has been purchased by BlackBoard.

A. Love mentioned that the Education Unit did well in the technology component of its recent accreditation process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Love reported on the Senate's actions with respect to our report presented on October 20. The bylaws say we are to nominate at least two students to the Technology Fee Task Force (TFTF), and at the Senate meeting the Provost indicated that he would like us to nominate more than two students in the interest of increasing the probability that student members will actually show up at meetings. As a result, all four of our student nominees were elected to the TFTF on an equal footing with one another.

K. Lord reported that the Provost's Office is revising the application procedure for Tech Fee funds.

OLD BUSINESS

The committee discussed the Open Access event we have been planning. It was agreed that the event should be held at Queens College rather than at the Graduate Center, and that it should be held during the Spring 2006 semester. We need to get a good speaker for the event, and believe that S. Bonk will be able to help us with this.

The committee continued its discussion of computer and email accounts. N. Husain explained how Active Directory Services (ADS) will enable use of a single user ID for accessing computing services any time, anywhere. During implementation Phase 1 there will be a single computer image containing all software used by all students in all courses. During Phase 2, students will have access to just that software needed for the courses a student is actually enrolled in. During Phase 3, CA Unicenter will allow the master image to be updated dynamically as new software is needed. The ability to associate individual students with particular courses ("active groups") has not been scheduled for implementation yet.

Husain explained that the library's need for proxy server access accelerated the need for remote login. Users will use the Remote Desktop application to gain access to a Terminal Services

server. The Help Desk web site will include instructions on how to use Remote Desktop over SSH.

J. Barnes explained that rolling out Lotus Notes for staff was relatively easy because they generally access the system only from their offices. In hindsight, the migration from Pegasus Mail to Notes should have used a firm cutover process rather than allowing users to defer their own change. All faculty will have had the chance to learn Notes and to install the software by mid-November. Approximately 8,492 students had activated their Notes and ADS accounts as of last week.

The committee discussed the issue of giving faculty access to ADS so they can verify that students have proper access to materials was discussed. The issue is complicated by the fact that the University is in the process of developing an Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP), which might prove to be incompatible with local implementation of faculty ADS access. OCT agreed that providing a scaled-back version of faculty ADS immediately would be a reasonable compromise.

NEW BUSINESS

Hubert Howe (Music) has submitted an application to serve as faculty representative of the Arts and Humanities division to the TFTF, a position currently held by E. Fernández. Action on this application was postponed pending clarification from the Provost's office on the terms of office for student and faculty members of the TFTF.

The committee discussed the idea that we should look at the current guidelines for Tech Fee expenditures and consider preparing a set of recommended changes to be presented as a resolution to the Senate. N. Husain offered to provide a copy of the current guidelines for our review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Vickery
Recording Secretary