Meeting Notes from 03/05/08, 1:30pm, Weir Hall Room 107

Present: Buffy Choinski, Christina Torbert, Elizabeth Stephan, Greg Tschumper, Joseph Gladden, Robert Doerksen, James Hendrick, MK Smith, Kevin Cozart, Penny Rice

Learning Objects Software

Rice distributed an Educational Pathways Article titled "Providing Blog, Wiki, Podcasting and ePortfolio Applications to Students, Faculty and Staff Through a Common Interface. The article is available for download at http://www.learningobjects.com/pdf/LearningObjectsEdPath_Reprint.pdf. This article provides information about the Learning Objects Campus Pack suite of software, which adds the ability to create blogs, wikis, podcasts, and ePortfolios within Blackboard. Since our SACS committee's focus is on enhancing student writing skills, we feel that providing the capability to journal (using blogs) and to create ePortfolios will be a step in the right direction.

Rice has installed a 30 day trial of the Learning Objects software on our Blackboard Test Server. She provided the committee with a demo of the software. The cost for the software is based on FTE and for our university would be $12,100 per year. This price includes full support and all upgrade releases throughout the year.

There was some discussion about the software and how it might be used in the classroom. The general consensus was that this would be very useful for instructors. The committee recommends that we pursue funding to provide this software for our campus.

CourseFeed Software

Rice introduced the committee to CourseFeed and gave a brief demo of the software.
- Available free from ClassTop.
- Allows students to view their Blackboard course materials within Facebook.
- Requires installation of the CourseFeed Blackboard building block.

The committee liked the software and thought it was very useful for students to be able to access their course materials through Facebook, since most students spend a majority of their time on Facebook. The committee expressed some concern about security. Will WebID usernames and passwords be kept secure if entered through facebook? Rice will investigate how user credentials are handled and report back to the committee at a later meeting.

Faculty Survey

Rice and Smith passed out a faculty survey that we'd like to make available to instructors through myOleMiss. The purpose of the survey is to gauge instructor satisfaction with

the services provided by the Faculty Technology Development Center and to determine what types of new/emerging technologies instructor are interested in learning more about. A copy of the survey can be viewed at http://www.olemiss.edu/ftdc/INSTTECHdocs/facultysurvey.doc.

Rice asked for comments/suggestions about the survey. The following changes were recommended:

- Add Unix/Linux as operating system type.
- Change question 6 to: What technologies/software are you currently using in your teaching and research?
- Add a question about types of training.

The meeting was dismissed at 2:30pm.