

Meeting Notes from 12/19/2001, 10:00 am, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room, Powers Hall

**Present:** Stephen Threlkeld, Dan Williams, Ron Savell, Penny Rice, Dawn Wilkins, Bill Scott, Waheed Uddin

**Blackboard Discussion:**

Rice reported that the Blackboard update to Level 2 is scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002. This update will provide us with a portal environment. This will allow campus organizations to utilize the communication features in Blackboard. Web based email will also be provided under the upgrade.

Rice also reported that we have a new policy in place for creating Blackboard accounts. Students are now given Blackboard accounts when they enter the University. Each student's Blackboard account username is identical to the first part of their Ole Miss email address. Passwords are initially set to be the student's social security number.

Uddin expressed concern that faculty did not know about Blackboard and thus were not using it.

Wilkins and Uddin suggested that we need to get the word out to more faculty. A possible way to do this would be to send out an email to all faculty members describing Blackboard and detailing the advantages of using it.

**Weir Hall Construction Project:**

Rice reported that the demolition portion of the Weir Hall construction project has been completed. A Bell South communication line, which ran through the student lab area of the building, had to be moved. This caused a slight delay. The scheduled completion date is Mid-August, but a 45 day extension has been applied for.

**Classroom Technology Project:**

Rice reported on the progress of the 2001 classroom technology upgrades.

- Carrier 220 – completed. Ceiling-mounted projector and wall connection panel were installed in this room.
- Hume 101 – completed. Ceiling-mounted projector and wall connection panel were installed in this room.
- Old Chemistry – 90% complete. Ceiling-mounted projector and wall connection panel have been installed in this room. Some carpenter work remains to be finished.

- Tupelo Room in Barnard – 95% complete. Ceiling-mounted projector and wall connection panel have been installed in this room. A network cable remains to be run underneath the flooring.
- Bishop Auditorium – Postponed until the summer. A full multimedia lectern and ceiling-mounted projector will be installed in this room.
- Peabody 206 – A full multimedia lectern has been added to this room. At this time, we are waiting on a VCR and speakers to arrive.

Uddin requested that he would like to see a projector installed in the Engineering graphics lab. Since it is too late to add it to this year's classroom upgrade project. The committee suggested that Uddin nominate this classroom next year.

Threlkeld and Wilkins asked how classes were scheduled in the existing multimedia classrooms. Who is responsible for this scheduling? Wilkins suggested that we find out and invite this person to a committee meeting so that they may clear up a few of our questions.

#### **TACIT:**

Rice reported that this year we replaced a total of 53 computers through our TACIT program. The breakdown of the new computers is as follows:

- 42 desktop PCs
- 2 PC laptops
- 2 Apple G4 powerbooks
- 3 Apple iBooks
- 4 Apple iMacs

We held two TACIT training sessions on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Each day's sessions lasted from 1:00 until 5:00 pm. The session topics included: Mail Call, The Academic Web, Microsoft Office Suite, FTDC-Scanning and Video Digitizing, and Getting Acquainted with Your New TACIT Computer. Each faculty member receiving a new computer was asked to attend one of these training sessions. An opinion survey passed out after the sessions revealed that most faculty members were very pleased with the training. A few stated that the training sessions should be optional, and several stated that the sessions should be shorter in length. We will take these suggestions into account when we plan for next year's training.

Wilkins asked how the numbers of computers replaced varied each year. Savell stated that numbers were holding steady. Wilkins said that in the future we might see a shift to replacing more laptops than desktops since faculty will have access to classrooms that are equipped with ceiling-mounted projectors and connection plates that will facilitate using laptops in the classroom.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.