Meeting Notes from 05-26-11, 10:00 am, Weir Hall Room 107

Members Present: Penny Rice, Maurice Eftink, Gail Herrera, Debra Riley-Huff, Wayne Shaw, Patricia Oswalt

Guests Present: Johnny Price

Classroom Technology Project:

Rice reported that notices were sent out to department chairs on 4/4 and 4/11 requesting submissions for candidate classrooms for this year's Classroom Technology Project. (CTP) The provost office also sent out a message to the deans on 4/26 requesting recommendations for classroom technology. Based on the combined responses, the following rooms were candidates to receive technology upgrades this year: J.D. Williams Library, Coulter 204, Holman 30, Guyton 115, Guyton 116, Guyton 214, Guyton 216, Guyton 324, and Guyton 339. There was also a request for a Smartboard for Conner and to retrofit several older podiums in Holman.

In addition to these rooms, the committee also looked at unfunded wireless network requests from last year's CTP. The buildings that were not funded last year were Coulter, Lenoir, and Summerville. We also received a wireless network request this year for Shoemaker.

All of this year's technology requests, along with approximate costs, are viewable at http://www.olemiss.edu/ftdc/ct.

- Eftink reported that we have $120,000 to work with this year.
- The committee agreed that the two new classrooms in the J.D. Williams Library were a high priority. The first classroom will seat 40 students and will require a networked podium and three 62" HDTV monitors. The second classroom will seat 24 students and will require a networked podium and two 62" HDTV monitors. The approximate cost for both rooms would be around $27,000.
- The existing projector in Coulter 204 is at the end of its life and needs replacing. The committee voted to fund the request for a new projector to place in this room.
- Rice explained that the Holman request was for replacement podiums. The existing podiums were built to house a CRT monitor. Newer, flat panel monitors will not fit in these old podiums. The request is for a new lectern for Holman 30, and to retrofit several of the older lecterns in other rooms in Holman. The cost of a new lectern is $3,500. The cost to retrofit an old podium is $500. The committee decided to fund one new lectern in Holman 30 and to retrofit 4 other podiums in Holman. The committee also approved the request for a Smartboard in Conner.
- The committee approved all requests for the rooms in Guyton.

- Rice reported that last year, this project was unable to fund all of the wireless requests that were received. The buildings that were not funded for wireless last year were Coulter, Lenoir, and Summerville.
- Because the Summerville request was made by the Center for Writing and Rhetoric, and they will soon be relocated to the old Law School building, the committee decided not fund the Summerville request. The renovation of the old Law School will include a wireless network.
- The wireless request for Lenoir was approved.
- The estimated cost for complete wireless network coverage in Coulter was $26,000.
- The committee also received a new wireless networking request this year for Shoemaker. The estimated cost for complete coverage in Shoemaker was $38,300.
- The committee did not have enough funds to approve both the Coulter and Shoemaker requests. There was much discussion over whether complete wireless coverage was absolutely necessary in these buildings, or would it be acceptable to only cover the classroom areas. The classrooms in Coulter are on the first and fourth floors. It was unknown which floors in Shoemaker housed the classrooms. The committee decided that by only funding wireless in the floors that housed the classrooms, it might be possible to trim down the costs sufficiently to provide a measure of wireless in both buildings.

The committee recommended that the following rooms and buildings receive technology upgrades this year.

Room or Building	Technology	Approximate Cost
J.D. Williams Library	2 lecterns and 5-62" HDTV monitors	$27,000
Coulter 204	Replacement projector	$1,000
Holman 30	Lectern	$3,500
Holman Podiums	Retrofit 4 existing podiums	$2,000
Conner	Smartboard	$1,500
Guyton 115	Lectern, projection screen, computer, sound system, controller	$6,000
Guyton 116	Lectern, projection screen, computer, sound system, controller	$6,000

Room or Building	Technology	Approximate Cost
Guyton 214	Lectern, computer, sound system, controller	$5,000
Guyton 216	Lectern, computer, sound system, controller	$5,000
Guyton 324	Replacement computer	$1,250
Guyton 339	Replacement computer	$1,250
Lenoir	Complete wireless network coverage	$8,100
Coulter	Wireless network coverage in classroom spaces on first and fourth floors	TBD
Shoemaker	Wireless network coverage in classroom spaces only	TBD

All of the above requests, with the exception of wireless in Coulter and Shoemaker, should be met for approximately $67,600. This leaves $52,400 to be used for wireless networking of classrooms in Coulter and Shoemaker.

RefWorks

Eftink mentioned that the University is about to purchase a campus license for RefWorks, an online research management, writing and collaboration tool, designed to help researchers easily gather, manage, store and share all types of information, as well as generate citations and bibliographies.

Clickers

Rice reported that the PRS RF Clicker that is the campus standard, is about to be discontinued. eInstruction, the company that currently supports the PRS clicker, has other clickers that will be available in its place. However, because the e-Instruction software is not very user friendly, and because their technical support has not been very good lately, now may be the time to investigate other clicker brands.

Because we do not have current data about clicker use on campus, the committee suggested that we send out a survey to the Clicker User Group, which is comprised of any instructors that have attended clicker training in the past. Possible survey questions include:
  • Are you currently using clickers in your course?

- If so, how many students are in your class?
- How do you currently use clickers in your class (check all that apply)?
  - Attendance
  - Daily quizzes
  - Survey or class poll
  - Homework
  - Exams
  - Other (please explain)
- Approximately how many class times each semester do you use the clickers?
- Are you satisfied with the PRS RF clickers?
- Are you satisfied with the PRS Response software?
- Would you be willing to change to a different clicker, provided that the clicker software was very user friendly?

Rice will compose the survey and send out to this committee for approval/feedback before sending out to instructors.

The meeting was dismissed at 11:00 am.