

Meeting Notes from 06/26/07, 2:00pm, Weir Hall Room 104

Members Present: Maurice Eftink, Penny Rice, MK Smith, Deetra Wiley

PRS Clickers

MK Smith gave a report to the committee about clicker usage on campus. Her report is below.

- Penny and I developed a survey for students in courses using clickers this past semester and four of the instructors we solicited posted it in class. The results are posted at <http://www.olemiss.edu/clickers/StudentSurveyResults2007.ppt>. The instructors were Ed Sisson in Sociology, Luca Bombelli in Physics, John Bruce in Political Science, and Gregg Davidson in Geology. The Chemistry and Biology faculty who use clickers in a “big way” did not participate this time around, but this survey will be available for instructors to use in the future, and we’ll encourage them to do so since I think it’s important to understand how effective this technology is for students as well as faculty.

- We’ve also posted a spreadsheet at <http://www.olemiss.edu/clickers/InstructorClickerSurvey.xls> that contains responses to a faculty survey we sent out at the same time. Obviously, there is room for PRS to improve their software, and we’ll continue to push for this. We’re going to offer further training opportunities in June and August. We’ve learned there is a definite learning curve for instructors before they become comfortable and proficient with the clicker technology.

- The Ole Miss Bookstore sold 1600 PRS clickers this past semester, including 160 they had bought back at the end of fall. I think it’s safe to say that the technology has definitely caught on, though it will be interesting to see how many faculty adopt or continue to use clickers in the coming year.

Classroom Technology

In an effort to make technology more user friendly, Smith outlined details for a Rapid Response Team for Classroom Technology. This team would be comprised of IT Staff and student workers. The goal is to provide a rapid response and resolution when an instructor reports a problem in one of the Classroom Technology rooms. As part of this effort, multiple training sessions will be provided for instructors prior to the fall semester. A Web form for reporting problems will also be created.

Faculty Survey

We briefly discussed the possibility of surveying faculty about their use of technology. What types of training would they like to see offered? Are they aware of the services provided by the FTDC? Would they use technology such as blogs and wikis if they were made available? We will discuss this further at a later meeting.

The meeting was dismissed at 2:30pm.