Technology Steering Committee

February 18, 2008

Members Present:  Bob Boncella, Nancy Tate, Al Dickes, Michael Gunter, Wanda Hill, Don Kellogg, Donna LaLonde, David Monical,

Around the Campus in 60 Seconds –

- Wireless installation in Stoffer and Petro is complete. Only areas in Petro where high density access is needed were completed.
- Wireless surveys were done at KTWU and Mabee Library. Results will be available soon.
- We are still having some problems with the 36 TB disk storage with windows and Unix.
- Mike will meet with Bill Hall of USD 501 this week to discuss the fiber that circles the Topeka area. We would like to use that fiber for the KATS project and would like to get started soon.
- Mike showed the capacitor from the UPS that violently ruptured. It was due to be replaced in six months since they are normally replaced at five year intervals. The circuit boards and wiring in the UPS had to be replaced due to heat from the rupture. The UPS was covered by a maintenance agreement, so there is no out of pocket expense to Washburn.
- For the next month, Mabee Library will be testing a HP Tablet PC.
- ISS has requested 375 desktop computers in order to stay on the four-year replacement cycle. ISS will get the standard PC configurations and list of users to Nancy Tate by early March. Agenda items need to be to Wanda by April 24th.
- The Stoffer parking lot camera is now working. This is the second time it has been hit by lightning. Every single component in the system was fried, except for the wiring. The camera is working now and a lighting rod has been put on the pole. If we continue to have problems the camera will need to be moved.
- Plans for the April 1 Technology Fair are moving along. Over 200 items will be auctioned, consisting of computers, switches, routers, servers, Cisco IP Phones, Hitachi TV with tall cart, etc. Exhibits will include: Microsoft, Interwrite (Audience Response System), Xirrus (Wireless, 80211n), Sprint (Aircards, WIMAX), KTWU (HDTV), Apple Computer (Macintosh), Nursing (SimMan, Resuscitator Annie & Baby), NewTek (TriCaster), Law Library and Mabee Library (On-line Databases) and possibly a couple more. We are sponsoring the fair with Dynamic Computer Solutions of Topeka.
- We were a target of the Storm Worm virus on Valentine’s Day with Lee Snook receiving over 1,000 emails an hour. During that day, 95% of emails that day were spam. David asked if an alert should be sent out when something like this happens. Mike said we would be sending alerts so frequently people would probably ignore them.

Generator Project –

- The generator that will power the PBX in Morgan, Bennett and Police Department was approved by the Board last month. The project will be done by PI Group; and should be completed in mid summer.
- The generator would not have helped the UPS malfunction in Bennett.

Faculty IT Advisory Council Is Working On –

- Council members are updating standard computer configurations and recommendations for computing systems for online classes.
Membership of the Faculty IT Advisory Council was discussed. Someone is needed to represent the Math/Natural Science and the Social Science Divisions. The new members will also need to be available to attend 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. council meetings.

Current Projects –
- The Committee reviewed the list of Current Projects. Special priority was requested for ODS (Operation Data Store) which could not be implemented earlier because the product was unstable. VP approval is needed to move the project to the top of the project list. Wanda agreed the ODS project needs to be a priority.
- Bob asked who will be accessing the data and who will be the data custodian. Assignments of custodians will be part of this project.
- Request from Donna. To support the RPE it needs to come from a functional area. Is this something the committee needs to deal with? This is RPE1-OS6I5 which will solve problems of accurate reporting on majors. David said 750 students may be affected.

Electronic Grade Book Module –
- Donna says School of Nursing is really interested in the electronic grade module. If the pilot goes well nursing would like to have it for all classes and make available for others. The set up and web will be minor. Move forward on the pilot per Nancy Tate.
- Al said attendance at KATS is very significant so we will need some mechanism to record attendance there.

Network Access Control (NAC) –
- We currently have no standards for connecting to our network from the outside. NAC controls physical access to the network by looking for patches to see if any virus software is running. If it fails it won’t let the user into the main part of our network. Users are sent to a quarantine area where they can download the required patches and virus software for remediation.
- After evaluation of many products it was determined Safe Access by Still Secure is the best fit for Washburn. It is the system currently used by the military. Licenses can be purchased by the number of concurrent users. There is a one-time fee plus maintenance charges. It will require another server.
- While there is no direct method to measure the cost benefit, the system would make it easier to connect to the University’s network, eliminating the student requirement to have their machines scanned before joining the network. The software would eliminate ISS spending three days at the beginning of the school year checking out individual student computers.
- Members are encouraged to view the Safe Access demo available on-line. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Account Retention Policy Change –
- Nothing to Report

Public Website Redesign –
- David complimented Eileen Brouddus and Sue Jarchow’s work on redoing the public website.
- He said anything representing the University should have the same look and feel. We need consistency and integrated marketing. Departments will be able to control the content and links.
- The Web Design Committee is recommending the content management system Cascade published by Hannon Hill.
• The cost is of $40,000 for the license and one year required maintenance at $8,000, which is twice what we currently pay for the current content manager, All of E.
• Everyone that has served on this group agrees that it has the features we want. David recommends the committee approve the project and send on to Wanda for funding.
• ISS was directed to allocate more internal time a the webmaster to maintain the site.
• Committee recommended purchase and implementation.

Security Perimeter Assessment –
• Law School has over 50% of the external IP addresses on campus. We need to revisit this issue and determine why the Law School needs so many addresses.
• The Committee discussed the article “The Hacker Safe Seal: Shield or Target?” It would not be advisable to put “Hacker Safe” on the website, because we are not selling it and it might act as a target.
• The Committee would like ISS to continue sending out periodical emails to folks on what kind of vulnerabilities are out there on scams. Our email servers receive over 800 emails a day on just bank phishing schemes alone we never see.

Security Document for Review –
• The policy section of the WUPRPM dealing with technology was discussed.
• Wanda explained each section of the WUPRPM has two parts – one part is for board policies and other is for regulations and procedures. When the entire WUPRPM has been approved by the Board of Regents, only the policy portion will have to go back to the Board for changes.
• Questions came up about the definition of “group”. We will check to see if “group” is defined somewhere in the WUPRPM. Minor changes were discussed. Changes will be made to the policy and it will be brought back to the committee for approval.