INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2004

[In these minutes: Ex-Officio Vacancy on the Senate Library Committee, Change SCIT Meeting Time, Illegal File Sharing Update, Minnesota Microsoft Class-Action Antitrust Lawsuit, Brainstorm Agenda Items for 2004 – 2005]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Andy Lopez, chair, Nancy Herther, Mark Sanders, Dale Swanson, Jeff Johnson, Stephen Cawley, Eric Celeste, David DeMuth, Stuart Speedie, Jim Waddell, Tun Jie, Mahmoud Sadrai

REGRETS: Linda Jorn, Alan Ek, Lynda Ellis, Douglas Ernie, Greg Laden

OTHERS: Bernard Gulachek, Ken Hanna, Nancy McGlynn, Shih-Pau Yen

I). Professor Lopez called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves.

II). Professor Lopez requested a volunteer to serve ex-officio on the Senate Library Committee as the SCIT representative. Professor Jim Waddell volunteered to fill this vacancy.

III). Professor Lopez requested members consider changing the Committeeπs meeting time for the 2004 – 2005 academic year as he has a teaching conflict. The meeting time was changed to 2:30 – 4:00. The Committee will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month. The Committeeπs meeting schedule can be found at the following URL: http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/meetings/scitmtg.html

IV). Steve Cawley provided members with an illegal file sharing update. Mr. Cawley highlighted the following:
   ○ File sharing continues to be a problem on campus.
   ○ OIT is making a concerted effort to educate students on the illegal nature of trading copyrighted material.
   ○ Last year two University of Minnesota students were sued and a new suit has recently been filed this fall.
   ○ Last year the University received approximately 400 illegal file sharing notices under

the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).
- The University negotiated a one-year on-line music service deal with Rhapsody for all students on all campuses. The Universityπs objective behind offering Rhapsody is to provide students with a legal way to download music.
- To date, approximately 800 students have signed up for the Rhapsody free trial offer. Plans are underway to promote this service further via Minnesota Daily ads, etc.

Questions/comments following Mr. Cawleyπs update included:
- Do students have to pay to download music off of Rhapsody? Yes, the music is only available when connected to the internet unless a student decides to purchase the music for additional .79 cents above and beyond the relatively inexpensive subscription fee.
- Have the illegal file sharing lawsuits focused on students downloading or uploading music? Although the University is not privy to the details of the suits, Mr. Cawley believes that the lawsuits focus on students that are uploading music and distributing copyrighted materials.
- Are there any technologies or policies in place to address file sharing over wireless? Mr. Cawley stated that this has not been an issue for the Twin Cities campus and so not a lot of attention has been devoted to this matter. However, Mr. Cawley indicated he is aware that this is a bandwidth issue for the Crookston campus when students upload and download music.
- Is the BitTorrent server technology viewed by OIT as problematic? Ken Hanna stated that BitTorrent is definitely an issue. While there is nothing wrong with technology, BitTorrent puts a user at risk for getting a virus or trojan via the network created by BitTorrent. Another problem with BitTorrent is the intermixing of copyrighted and non-copyrighted materials and this technology.
- What steps does the University follow when it receives a DMCA notice? The University is required under this federal law to notify the student associated with a particular IP address that a complaint has been received. Then, the University uses this as an opportunity to educate the student on file sharing and copyright issues. Another provision of this law is that the University, as an ISP, is required to expeditiously remove the offending material from the network, and the studentπs IP address is shut down for approximately a week. OIT sees very few repeat violations. Besides the DMCA notices, OIT also receives subpoenas for the names associated with a particular IP address. The subpoenas are forwarded to the Office of the General Counsel to handle.
- What happens if the University receives a DMCA notice or subpoena for a computer in a lab? Mr. Cawley stated that fortunately this has not yet occurred, but in the event it does occur the Office of the General Counsel would need to be consulted.
- A member expressed skepticism over some of the DMCA notices being received in various parts of the country. Is the University receiving DMCA notices from other organizations outside the movie and music industries? Ken Hanna noted that the University does watch where the DMCA notices are coming from. A vast majority of

DMCA notices received by the University are from the music and movie industries.

V). CIO Steve Cawley provided members with an update on the Minnesota Microsfot class-action antitrust lawsuit, which settled in the range of $170 million. Governmental institutions were not participants in this suit.

On October 22nd, 2004 a judge will hear arguments from the University of Minnesota that it has a special constitutional status, which separates it from the State of Minnesota and makes it a non-governmental entity. If the judge rules in favor of the University, it could receive as much as $2.5 million in vouchers, which the University could use towards software or other computer-related purchases. Should the University receive this judgment, we would need to devise a strategy to distribute these vouchers fairly across all campuses.

Another element of the Microsoft settlement is $5 million in cash and vouchers, earmarked for University research. Dean Ted Davis of the Institute of Technology is leading an effort to organize a research project, which would satisfy the expectations of the plaintiff attorney and Microsoft. The research project currently being designed focuses on bio-informatics and computational biology. A summary of this research proposal will also go before the judge on October 22nd. The goal is to spread this research effort across as many colleges at the University as possible.

Yet another component to the Microsoft agreement is that after the first five years of research support by Microsoft, colleges that participate must provide matching support. The goal is to have this program live on beyond the first five years of Microsoft support.

VI). Next, members continued their brainstorming efforts from the May 2004 SCIT meeting to come up with ideas/issues they would like to address this academic year. The following ideas were generated:
  ○ Receive information on the best plagiarism software.
  ○ Discuss the crisis in scholarly publishing.
  ○ Receive a security update, particularly related to the wireless network.
  ○ Receive an update on the network implementation.
  ○ Share OITπs compact and work plan.
  ○ Learn more about the Presidentπs 21st Century Technology Initiative, which has a TEL component as well as a researching computing component.
  ○ Receive information on student technology fees. Is the burden of supporting technology on campus being shifted to students?
  ○ Receive an update from Steve Fitzgerald on the Classroom Technology Upgrade Plan. On a related note, discuss with Mr. Fitzgerald technology problems in technology-enhanced classrooms and how to expedite repair of these problems.
  ○ Receive information on Voice-Over IP (VOIP) between the campuses. Invite John Miller and other campus directors to provide an update on what is happening with this

technology.
- Explore the web page default policy. Should a web page standardization policy be invoked? Eric Celeste agreed to provide background information to the Committee on this topic. Then, at a later meeting a representative from the Office of the General Counsel could be invited to discuss the legal ramifications of developing such a policy.
- Discuss web mail and what improvements/enhancements should be made to this service.
- Learn more about OITπs storage area network.
- Receive information on OITπs strategic planning initiatives.
- Discuss on campus identity management issues.
- Discuss instructional technology issues including a demonstration of Vista, WebCT and Breeze.
- Discuss standards for protecting research data and whether improvements/enhancements can be/should be made to this policy.
- Receive an update on email spam and viruses.

Professor Lopez asked members which of the above items should be taken up at the Committeeπs next meeting. Members agreed they would like the following items on the November agenda:
- Web mail.
- The best plagiarism software.
- The Presidentπs 21st Century Technology Initiative.
- Spam/virus update

VI). Hearing no further business, Professor Lopez adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate