

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 1, 2007

[In these minutes:

NetFiles Update, Active Directory Update, UM Cal Update, Student Technology Fees Discussion Continued, OIT Compact Update, Ann Hill Duin Named Vice President and Deputy CIO, Brainstorm Agenda Items for 2007 – 2008]

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

PRESENT:

Nancy Herther, chair, Mark Sanders, Dale Swanson, Sue Van Voorhis, Deanette Schmidt, Danielle Tisinger, Douglas Ernie, Bonnie Westra, Briana Clark, Mahmoud Sadrai

REGRETS: Linda Jorn, Christina Meyer, Alan Ek, Joan Hughes, Andy Lopez, Stuart Speedie, Jim Waddell, Parker Schultz, Myron Lowe

ABSENT: John Butler, Stephen Cawley, Greg Laden

OTHERS: Bernard Gulachek, Simin Hickman, John H. Miller

GUEST: Paul Honsey

I). Nancy Herther called the meeting to order.

II).

Nancy Herther introduced Paul Honsey who was invited to provide members with a NetFiles and Active Directory update.

In terms of adoption of the two services and directions for the future, Mr. Honsey highlighted the following:

- Currently, there are 2,447 active NetFiles users that are using approximately 500 gigabytes of data.
- Starting this summer at new student orientation, NetFiles will be introduced to incoming students. With this, it is expected that the number of NetFiles users will increase.
- Nineteen units in some fashion are using Active Directory. Over the summer, there are plans for another 16 units to convert to Active Directory.
- Currently, Active Directory is using approximately 2.8 terabytes on centrally managed file servers.
- Starting this summer all ADCS public labs will convert to Active Directory and require Active Directory authentication in order to use these labs. Converting to Active Directory in all ADCS public labs will facilitate workstation management.

With respect to UM Cal, Mr. Honsey reported:

- OIT is in the process of converting the Carlson School of Management, the Crookston campus and Epidemiology to UM Cal.
- There are currently 13,444 UM Cal users.
- It is uncertain whether the AHC will convert to UM Cal at this point.

Questions/comments from members:

- Is it possible to look up a NetFiles password? To the best of Mr. Honsey's knowledge there is no way to look up a password on NetFiles. Users may simply have to create a new password.

- Have there been any complaints about the performance of NetFiles? Only a few complaints have been received.
There are some large file issues, and this can be attributed to NetFiles using HTTP as a transport. HTTP is not the most efficient protocol for moving large files.
- Has there been a full-scale rollout of NetFiles to faculty and staff? Mr. Honsey noted that OIT has not done a full-fledged announcement about NetFiles.
The new student orientation will be the first time the application is officially marketed.
- Are there plans to allocate space on NetFiles to departments/units? Mr. Honsey stated that collegiate-level folders are being set up. If departments want space they need to complete an online form.
- Instructions on how to access NetFiles are not consistent as home grown instructions have been crafted and posted on the web. It is likely that this has to do with how the application is being rolled out. Simin Hickman noted that OIT is working on a marketing piece for NetFiles, and hopefully this will eliminate some of the confusion that has taken place.
- Are there any space concerns as OIT gears up to market this application to significantly more users? Mr. Honsey stated that because individuals will drive the data usage in NetFiles, OIT does not have a strong sense for how many people will use it. OIT has a lot of data set aside to present to the application if the demand is there.
- What is NetFiles and how can it be used?
NetFiles is an online document management system that allows sharing of files noted Mr. Honsey.
- Who supports NetFiles? Mr. Honsey stated that the NetFiles site at <http://www1.umn.edu/netfiles/about.html> provides useful information. Also, University Technology Training Center has developed online training for NetFiles at <http://uttc.umn.edu/training/resources/netfiles/> and offers short courses as well. Simin Hickman added if a department has several people interested in taking the short course, special arrangements for training from UTTC can be arranged.
She added that the best way to receive support for NetFiles is to email question(s).
- How will OIT monitor inappropriate use, e.g. file sharing program bans? According to Mr. Honsey, the content will not be policed per se.
However, OIT Security will get a list of public files on the system each Wednesday, and if a file seems inappropriate, OIT Security would take action.
- What is Active Directory?
Mr. Honsey stated that Active Directory is a Microsoft directory service used to manage user and computer accounts.
It allows computer administrators to control, for example, who can log into a machine, and define the security policies for a computer.
Additional components can be run with Active Directory, e.g. file services. Bernie Gulachek added that Active Directory is a desktop management tool that essentially enables people that are responsible for managing computers to do so in a more uniform, effective and efficient manner. Mr. Honsey stated that OIT is using Active Directory to support the Rochester campus.

III).

At the committee's April meeting, Peter Zetterberg and Linc Kallsen were quite confident that they would have a draft student technology fee proposal to share with SCIT at its May meeting. This, however, did not come to fruition.

Ms. Herther did report receiving an email message outlining a cursory draft of a technology fee proposal, which she distributed to members for their review. Once members had an opportunity to look over the email message, Ms. Herther opened up the meeting for discussion.

Questions/comments from members included:

- Will the 10% IT fee increase offset not charging non-IT students to take IT courses? Sue VanVoorhis

stated that the new technology fee structure is intended to be revenue neutral or even a revenue increase for units.

- What is the timeline for this proposal, e.g. when will it go to the Board of Regents and when will it be implemented?
- Will the changes being proposed to the technology fee structure make the issues the Office of the Registrar deals with better, worse or neutral? Ms. VanVoorhis stated that the current technology fee structure is extremely difficult to administer, and this proposal would represent a significant improvement over the current process.
She added that if this proposal goes to the Board of Regents in June and approved, it is likely this proposal would take effect in fall 2007, pending system modifications.
- Moving forward without governance and other consultation on this matter does not seem wise. Hopefully, this proposal will not be pushed too quickly through the system without the proper consultation.
- Every college just went through a lot of effort to determine their fees for next year under the old policy.

A member put forward a suggestion that the committee draft a motion/statement asking the administration to delay implementation of this proposal until there has been proper consultation. The committee spent time further refining what they wanted the motion to convey. Nancy Herther agreed to craft the statement and send a draft out for member's input.

Once input has been received a formal vote on the statement will be conducted over email.

IV). Ms. Herther asked Mr. Gulachek if OIT has received word on their compact request. Mr. Gulachek reported that no word has been received as the legislature is still in session. On a different note, however, Mr. Gulachek reported that Ann Hill Duin will be appointed as the Associate Vice President and Deputy CIO in the Office of Information Technology and will succeed Shih-Pau Yen.

V). Next, the committee brainstormed agenda items for the 2007 – 2008 academic year. The following ideas were generated:

- Digital video services.
- GopherMail update.
- Gopher TV update.
- New product updates, e.g. Grad Planner, the revised course guides.
- Use of technology in emergency preparedness.
- An update on the Library's digital conservancy efforts.
- Brainstorm ideas for teaching with technology and not simply superimposing technology on the curriculum.
- Discuss how technology is having an impact on student performance.
- Discuss how to best support students enrolled in Vista WebCT courses given its strengths and limitations. What support is available to faculty to help students learn effectively?
- Plagiarism.
- Discuss how best to empower faculty with technology resources. Simin Hickman reported that there is a committee, ATAC (Academic Technology Advisory Committee) that meets monthly to discuss technology-related issues for teaching on campus.
- Receive an update from the Technology Enhanced Learning Council. There may be synergy between SCIT and this group.
- Receive a two-factor authentication update.

Ms. Herther thanked the committee for their service and announced that Mark Sanders would be the SCIT chair for the 2007 – 2008 academic year.

In turn, Mark Sanders on behalf of the committee, thanked Ms. Herther for her leadership over the past year. He added that he looks forward to working with the committee next year.

VI). Hearing no further business, Ms. Herther adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate