

EL CAMINO COLLEGE
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 25, 2014

The Academic Technology Committee is a sub-committee of the College Technology Committee and the Academic Senate that focuses on the academic technology needs of the college.

Members Present: Dawn Charman, Pete Marcoux, Dave Murphy, David Pahl, Soshanna Potter, Daniel Shrader, Howard Story, Don Treat, John Wagstaff, Michael Wynne

Members Absent: Francis Baylen, Richard Ciampa, Lyn Clemons, Alice Grigsby, Dwayne Hayden, Donna Manno, Noreth Men, Virginia Rapp, Sabra Sabio, Margaret Steinberg

Recorder: Laurie Linka

The Academic Technology Committee meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m.

P. Marcoux opened the meeting with a review of the minutes from the previous meeting of March 14, 2013. The committee members approved the minutes.

Microsoft's Student Advantage and Office 365 Program

D. Murphy advised that per a Microsoft agreement, Office Professional Plus 2013 could be made available to all students at no cost. We are waiting on procedures to implement this process.

It was noted that Office 365 is a cloud-based type of program. Basically, it locks students into an email system, where they would commit to connection in the cloud system, and buy storage. They would then bring others in to use the same product.

J. Wagstaff updated the committee on Office 365. It is an option on this year's contract, but there has not been time to conduct research. However, the college is going in this direction.

Grant for Devices for Students

It was discussed that McGraw-Hill would like to stop printing textbooks by 2015. If this happens, all future books will be digital. If this happens, they would print on demand only. This is an inevitable direction for all learning environments and, as a result, the committee needs to start talking about and start looking at digital textbooks. Digital texts may well have an impact on the bookstore. Transition to an all, or primarily all, digital text environment will require an evaluation of the operations and product offerings. P. Marcoux is working with McGraw-Hill in regards to bundling textbooks with a free device included. The challenge for ECC is the variety of platforms – at this point there is no standard and each publisher seems to be pursuing its own digital textbook solution. Also discussed was a new term “BYOD” meaning Bring Your Own Device. This adds to the complexity of the various publisher platform solutions. The college must bear the burden of not only embracing the publisher solutions but also ensuring that all possible student-owned devices will work with the technologies. This committee will conduct some research and development on

devices, by purchasing and reviewing five or six devices, taking into account cost, size of screen, connectivity. They will also work with the Foundation on Innovation Grants.

“Pay as you go technology” was introduced and discussed. This relatively new service involves purchasing eBooks, but paying only for what is used. For example, if a student dropped a class after two weeks, they would only be charged for what pages they actually accessed during that two-week period.

Wi-Fi in the “Old” Buildings

The push of digital technology has an impact on the college physical plant. The older buildings, like Natural Sciences and Humanities, must be retrofitted. The administration needs a push from committees like the Academic Technology Committee, to get things done. A level playing field on campus is required meaning that the advancing technology will require an ongoing evaluation of the capabilities built into the various buildings. Retrofitting is needed to keep the teaching environment uniform. P. Marcoux will draft a written resolution in regards to these concerns, to present to the Senate. Can we get data from other campuses, to determine if they have a standardization plan? For instance, when a new building is updated, do they follow suit with older buildings?

There were questions regarding funding for the retrofit. Is bond money only available for new buildings? State funds are not available for the remodeling of buildings; therefore, bond money would have to be used.

Technology is moving away from chalkboards, whiteboards and books. Clear goal setting is critical at this time - for example, by 2020, El Camino College will be at 90% digital textbooks. Will there be financial aid for students? If we can supply the devices, the students would purchase the digital textbooks.

ECC has adopted the Aruba Network, which is capable of running the entire campus. This will establish campus wide Wi-Fi. Standardization of the classroom is vital. Utilization should drive the technology.

According to J. Wagstaff, as of April 8, 2014, Microsoft will stop issuing security patches for Windows XP and Office 2003. Any device incapable of running 2007 must be replaced. The process of replacing will begin April 9, 2014.

Survey of the Tech Conference

The committee was unable to discuss the survey of the Technology Conference, due to the absence of D. Manno. P. Marcoux will email the results to the committee members.

There will be no more meetings of the Academic Technology Committee this semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.