Academic Technology Committee (ATC)
Minutes
September 12, 2003

Attendees: Francis Baylen, Maria Brown, Lyn Clemons, Susie Dever, Joe Georges, Dwayne Hayden, Tom Jackson, Bob Lewis, Pete Marcoux, Barbara Morris, Dave Murphy, Annette Owens, Barbara Perez, Donna Post, John Ruggirello

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 30, 2003 – 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Library 102

The Minutes of the June 24, 2003 meeting were approved as written.

Susie Dever gave an update on the collaborative website management recommendations, stating that a proposal was made to the Cabinet by Ann Garten and Donna Manno. The proposal may be acted on this year. It was noted that Annette Owens was leaving El Camino College and that her position may or may not be filled.

There was a brief discussion of OmniUpdate and similar web service companies and the possibility that one of them might be used to establish a new College website that could make distributed Web maintenance easier than it is now. Maria Brown and Pete Marcoux will work on getting the word out to the Academic Senate and to faculty generally.

Joe Georges gave an update on ITS works in progress:

- An improved voice mail system for the College
- An improved schedule development feature within our Datatel Colleague system
- New portal for students, staff, and faculty, which will make certain services such as obtaining class rosters available from home - even for example to faculty accessing the ECC website from private Internet service providers. This will represent a significant convenience. A demo will be ready this fall for all groups.

Barbara Perez cited the difficulties for students without computers at home to use web services such as online application and registration. This applies particularly to new students who have no ECC computer lab privileges until they are enrolled.

With regard to prioritizing academic software requests, Joe Georges explained past ATC voting procedures (Instructional divisions and three academic units - Media Services, the SRC and Tech Services - each have had one vote) and suggested that the committee use the same voting procedure today, though without a vote for Tech Services since it is no longer participating in the ATC. It was noted that there is $118,000 in 2002-03 carryover funds to spend on academic software at this time, and that there may be another $200,000 available if there isn’t a mid-year budget cut or other emergency.
Collegewide requirements were discussed first because many instructional divisions have some of the same needs. A license for Turnitin.com, for example, would help faculty in every department detect cases of student plagiarism on written assignments. Another such collegewide need is campus licensing for faculty to use either WebCT or Blackboard. This year’s licensing will run $8,000. Still other needs are for computer lab utility software such as Ghost and software that helps students with special accessibility needs.

Susie Dever then asked each division to rank its priorities from 1 – 5, but a discussion brought out the fact that many division priorities are actually collegewide needs as well. For instance, Pete Marcoux spoke about faculty laptop and PC software replacement. Similarly, Lyn Clemons said that the software needed by the Special Resource Center could be used campuswide. And Susie Dever said that some of her requirements for the Learning Resource Center also pertain to the whole campus. Three out of the four LRC software needs are related to the whole college.

Everyone was urged to take a look at their division/unit requirements again with an eye toward identifying the most critical needs, to consult with their colleagues as needed, to consider reducing the number of licenses they require, and to keep in mind the viability of site-wide licensing for their software. This discussion will be resumed at the next meeting.