New Mexico Tech Faculty Senate:

Computing on Campus Committee
Meeting Summary Report: January 30, 2009 [Updated 2/8]

Agenda

I)   Election of Chair
II)   TCC Updates
III)   Student File Storage
IV)   End Note
V)   Meeting time and Place
VI)   New Business
VII)   Faculty Senate Report

Minutes

I)   Election of Chair – Wilson nominated and declined.

Sonnenfeld – volunteered, seconded by Soliman – elected.

II)   TCC Updates

a) File storage for ALL users to increase to > 1 GBytes by year end. Recently increased from 400-600 MBytes with 350 MBytes added for mail. By year end, will be 800 MBytes + 350 Mbytes of unified storage (no distinction between mail and files). The one GByte figure also applies to departmental and club accounts -- in other words, ALL accounts.

b) End Note License changed so that ANY faculty, staff member or student can access it. http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/help/endnote for instructions.   Cal asked about Macs, Topliff to look into it.

c) WebCT and Blackboard are now one company. A remote server is being tested in two classes.

d) Modem charge to increase to $7. Sonnenfeld asked Topliff to notify all users that they were currently being billed for this. Goal is to reduce costs to departments. Topliff said notification was made one year ago. Sonnenfeld suggested doing again.

III)   Student File Storage

Marrero and Merrigan asked for "more", and were satisfied with Topliff's planned increases.

IV)   End Note

(see item II)

V)   Meeting time and Place

3 pm Fridays, roughly monthly in the middle of the month,
Next meeting 2/13/09 in Speare conference room 102.

VI)   New Business

Round table discussion: Reported below

VII)   Faculty Senate Report

(this report)

Attendees:

Regular Members

Mark Cal – Civil and Env. Eng. chair (mcal@nmt.edu)

Mehrdad Razavi -- Mineral Engineering (mehrdad@nmt.edu)

Hamdy Soliman -- Computer Science (hss@nmt.edu)

Richard Sonnenfeld [Chair] -- Physics Dept. (rsonnenf@nmt.edu)

John Starrett -- Math - Unable to attend (jstarret@nmt.edu)

Claudia Wilson – Civil and Env. Eng. chair (claudinhawilson@gmail.com)

Ex officio Members

Mike Topliff -- TCC Director (mtopliff@nmt.edu)

Owen Ellard -- Library Director (oellard@admin.nmt.edu)

Shasta Marrero -- GSA Pres./ Hydrology Grad student (shastamarrero@gmail.com)

Dylan Merrigan -- SA Pres. (dmerriga@nmt.edu)

Announced Absences

John Starrett

Other Absences

Scott Zeman -- Dean of Students (szeman@nmt.edu)

Round Table Discussion:

1) Open Source Alternatives to WebCT

Should fees and support requirements become too odious, there are alternatives to WebCT, for example, "Moodle".

2) Network Charges

Marrero: Students can't afford the $14 ISD connection fee, and their advisor can't pay for it because funding agencies always assume universities provide internet connectivity as part of basic infrastructure. Students forced to use wireless connections which are unreliable and slow.

3) Working Effectively

Soliman and Sonnenfeld: Networking and computing are tightly coupled, but they are separate organizations at NM Tech. Thus committee will invite members of ISD in hopes of arriving at holistic approaches to computing/networking goals. Joe Franklin has already graciously agreed to join us when needed.

Agenda 2/13/09

I)   Discussion of Open Source alternatives to WebCT.

II)   Discussion of including some network and telephones into Tech research overhead.

III)   Requesting bandwidth Map from ISD

IV)   Discuss network bandwidth goals with ISD

V)   Brainstorming – What are most important goals for committee this year?