Welcome/Call to Order

G. Stylianides (Chair) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Technology Committee for 2003-2004. The September meeting was called to order at 10:15 am.

Minutes

N. Anderson moved to approve the April 14, 2003 minutes, J. Golub seconded and minutes stand approved as written.

Chair Elect

The Committee moved to table this election until the next meeting allowing additional time for consideration of the position.

Laptops Initiative

Apple Computer Corporation approached USF approximately one year ago to partner with them on a laptop initiative for students. After numerous discussions and negotiations the College of Education agreed to pilot a laptop initiative during fall 2003 with Barry Morris, Childhood Education, agreeing to Chair the program. The “pilot” will consist of 25 Childhood Education students who are required to commit for five semesters. Each student will be furnished an Apple laptop computer complete with software to be used during the cohort. Apple also provided ten additional laptops for faculty members.

Faculty was asked to sign up if they were interested in participating in the pilot. There were 18 participants from all departments in the Level One.
When the cost of WebCT skyrocketed, the University was unable to maintain both Blackboard and WebCT. Due to cost and student preference, the University chose to keep Blackboard. Many faculty members were upset by this decision. Faculty had not been consulted and knew Blackboard did not have the same capabilities provided by WebCT. After discussing the lack of capabilities with the Director of Academic Computing, Blackboard agreed to update their program.

Over the summer selected faculty were assigned to work with the new system. They were to detect any flaws or problems and work toward eliminating them before the fall semester. After this was completed, the new system was implemented college-wide. Major problems were discovered in OASIS. If a faculty member had not been listed as instructor of record, the system did not recognize them and would not allow them access to Blackboard on their homepage. This was only discovered the Friday before fall semester was to begin. Blackboard does not allow for limited time quiz/tests and faculty felt this was something that was needed.

Everyone, including students, is encouraged to use Blackboard and report any problems to Academic Computing. It is imperative that each person report all glitches and/or bugs they encounter. Active participation is needed to rectify the problems.

G. Stylianides participated in a workshop at the Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence, Incrementions & Transformations: Using Technology to Enhance Teaching & Learning. A program was presented wherein it was noted that nationwide 90% of all undergraduate students plagiarize from the Internet. Turnitin.com is a company that sells and distributes products, which assist faculty in the discovery of plagiarism. NOTE: This service is available to USF faculty for free.

Re-negotiation for a better contract with Macromedia is ongoing at this time.

Technical assistance is available until 6 pm, Monday through Friday and from 8 am until 12 pm on Saturday. Verbal assistance is available by pager and “on call” service is being discussed.

Currently all policies are being followed. S. Seifreit will ensure that all teaching labs have policies posted.
Departmental Technology Needs

Faculty is asked to submit all departmental technology needs to the CETC for review.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, October 13, 2003 at 10:00 am in EDU 219.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Transcribed by

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