

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMITTEE on COMPUTER RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2005, at 2 PM

Committee members in attendance: Chair Thorsen, Professors Altimari, Burleson, Ellerton, Ford, Grant, Mangra, Moh.

- 1) The minutes of the last meeting, on 5/18/05, were approved.
- 2) Evaluation of the 2005 Technology Plan will be imperative for this committee. This will probably be the central agenda item for the next meeting.
- 3) The chair briefly outlined and discussed all of the generic charges of the CRC.
- 4) Logistics and ideas for the CRC Newsletter were discussed at length. The chair recommended that the newsletter could be used to enlighten faculty about various programs that may be unfamiliar to most faculty, such as Tigerdrive, Surveyor and Cleanslate. Profs. Thorsen, Grant and Ellerton volunteered to take on design of the newsletter.
- 5) Reining in the quantity of printing done in the library is important. Better monitoring of software and drivers would help. There are also issues regarding authentication, and the expense of upgrades and maintenance.
- 6) Prof. Grant articulated a good strategy for getting students in the habit of using Tigermail. All students must check Blackboard several times a week for messages, and Prof. Grant allows no students to send or receive any messages other than via Tigermail. This could be a good tip for the newsletter.
- 7) The current use of the last 6 digits of one's Social Security number as a password was discussed at length, vis-à-vis the associated risks of identity theft.
- 8) Prof. Moh will meet with Tony Hong, the new student email server director.
- 9) We can assume that any liaison members of other committees will approach us with any relevant requests (thus, we do not need to seek them out initially to inquire about their needs from the committee.)
- 10) A substantial discussion took place regarding perceived inequities of office computers available to various academic departments, compared with what is available to the students in the AAC and library. Prof. Ellerton will speak with George Sherman regarding current and future plans for distribution. It was also noted that newer and more up-to-date hand-me-downs might alleviate this problem.
- 11) It would be very useful if we could measure the quantity of wireless usage on campus. How this would actually be accomplished is unclear. It is possible that bandwidth can be used as a kind of barometer. If possible, producing a graph of comparative usage within different years or semesters could be extremely useful to gauge whether there is growing use of the wireless network on campus. Prof. Moh will investigate this, in conjunction with IT.
- 12) There was an open question as to whether the tech fee supports replacement of laptop batteries (N.B: the Tech Plan seems to make this question moot, as it advocates phasing out the "rolling laptop cart" mechanism for various reasons cited in the document.)

- 13) Currently, there are no login or password requirements for wireless usage on campus. This could be a security liability. Addressing this would involve a considerable, but probably one-time expense.
- 14) The topic for the remainder of the meeting was the sheer quantity of email constantly being sent through the campus system. Somehow rerouting all “community dialogue” email into a bulletin board system was one suggested strategy. Other tactics that were discussed included restricting access to certain large server lists, such as “_Everyone.” Restricting the “_Faculty” list to department chairs was also articulated as a possible strategy, although that would make it more difficult for faculty to notify other departments of events that might be interesting to the faculty at large. As of now, lists are only restricted as a rule. The open question is this: can (or should) some of these lists be blocked programmatically?
- 15) The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Burleson, Secretary, Committee on Computer Resources