ITAC Meeting
April 16, 2010 at 2:00 PM
Watson Library, 113A

Agenda

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of March 5, 2010

3. Update by Tracy Brown on Alpha cutover

4. Other Business

5. Next Meeting Date

Tracy Brown, ITAC Chairperson

Date: 4/16/10
ITAC Meeting
April 16, 2010 at 2:00
Watson Library, 113A
Signature Sheet

Print Name | Signature
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1. Bryan Blane Henn | 
2. Roni Biscoe | Roni Biscoe
3. Cecil Knott | Cecil Knott
4. M. Siering | M. Siering
5. Jennifer Long | Jennifer Long
6. Jill Democracy | Jill Democracy
7. Frank Fuller | Frank Fuller
8. Dennis Choate | Dennis Choate
9. 
10. 
11. 
12. 

ITAC Chair

[Signature]
ITAC Meeting  
April 16, 2010  
Watson Library 113A  
2:00 PM  

Present:
Roni Biscoe, Tracy Brown, Dannie Choate, Frank Fuller, Molly Giering (for Mary Odom and Daphne Sampite), Blayne Henson (for Hedy Pinkerton), Cecil Knotts (for himself, for Rita Graves, and Stan Wright), Gail Kwak, Jennifer Long Martin, Helaine Razovsky

Because of connectivity problems that made the participation of ITAC members in Shreveport and Leesville impossible, ITAC was held to have a quorum and the meeting was called to order at 2:07 PM by Tracy Brown. Frank Fuller moved that the minutes of the last meeting be approved. Roni Biscoe seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Tracy Brown explained the mechanics of the Alpha migration, which was necessitated by the fact that the old hardware is ten years old and HP will no longer be supporting it. The Banner project will bring up only SIS and financial aid; the remaining SCT modules must be kept running to preserve historical data and to keep the university running. New hardware has been purchased; installation and migration will begin soon. The system currently called Alpha will be named Plus, because it runs SCTPlus. Minus is the name assigned to the backup system. Stanley Hippler will be coming in to help, because of his VMS expertise. The migration must be finished by June 30, because maintenance will not be available after that date. IT has purchased a five-year maintenance contract to keep the system secure. The new system will provide an extra layer of security (SSH) because data will be encrypted, as it is not in the current system. Tracy Brown asked Donnie Choate if he had anything to add. For the vast majority of users, the system will not look different; they will experience only minor changes, such as slightly enhanced speed for batch runs. The backup system will be located in Shreveport rather than in St. Denis, again for added security.

Tracy Brown asked for any other business, including questions. When Frank Fuller indicated that he thought the year had gone well, Tracy Brown mentioned that the move to Blackboard 9 had yielded both good and bad results, although the migration from the previous system to this one went well. Any problems have been with the functionality of this newer version of Blackboard. When Tracy Brown said that the university may want to look at switching to a different online course management system, Frank Fuller asked what options are available. Blayne Henson, from ECE, offered the names of a number of alternatives to both Blackboard and Moodle, such as Angel, Jewel, and Sakai. When Roni Biscoe asked about what open-source models, which would be free, are available, Tracy Brown noted that even if the university uses an open-source platform, IT would need to have technical support to make sure the system runs smoothly. Blayne Henson noted that either you pay for the platform or you pay for support for the platform. The body that will choose the learning system platform is ELAC (E-Learning Advisory Council). Gail Kwak asked about upgrades to MS Office 2007; Tracy Brown said that IT is still working to upgrade the computers of isolated pockets of people who do not have it. Eventually, now that the university has a campus-wide license, all computers on campus will be moved to Office 7, because Microsoft will eventually stop supporting Windows XP. Tracy
explained that IT is making changes to wireless capabilities to make use of various portable devices easier. He says that currently the university has an average of 160 wireless users at any one time.

Tracy Brown announced that because the new Alpha system is not yet available, the COOP cannot be approved. Therefore, ITAC must hold a summer meeting, probably at the end of June or early in July. Molly Giering asked if different units will be asked to update their COOPs before or after the meeting; Tracy said that they’ll have to wait to see.

Frank Fuller moved to adjourn; Molly Giering seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30. Tracy noted that in the fall we will have a new ITAC chair.

ITAC Chair, Tracy Brown

Recorder, Helaine Razovsky

Date 10/7/10

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