

Minutes of the Instructional Technology Advisory Committee, 3/19/03

1. Dr. Ianno discussed a better way to make SPSS available to faculty members who need this software for their research. SPSS has a network package where the software is available via the network. The individuals who want to use this software have a client installed on their computers that accesses SPSS from the network. This version restricts the number of concurrent users, but this should not pose a serious problem because most people make infrequent use of statistical software. This is available for \$75/user, which is a substantial savings over installing this software on stand-alone machines (\$200 first year, \$150 yearly upgrades). This would also cut down on the multiple copies of the stand-alone version that are available on campus. This approach would also make the software easier for faculty to administer, as the yearly upgrades would be performed by OIT. There is the possibility that Academic Affairs might be willing to pay for this, as it would benefit all faculty who need this software for research. On the other hand, individual departments might be willing to fund this project. It is unclear if a network option is available for SAS software.
2. Dr. Ianno reported the latest Administrative Technology Advisory Committee results.
 - They are implementing a plan to have technology representatives from each department. This would include training so these individuals can install software, troubleshoot printers, and other forms of basic system support.
 - A campus inventory of computers will be getting underway.
 - Policy documents are under development.
 - Student technology fee funds are being spent on the recommendations from the February meeting.
3. Debra Pope-Johnson told the committee about a wireless technology grant in the School of Education. This involves the use of Palm personal digital assistants and wireless hardware to facilitate the transmission of documents between teachers and students. These will be used for math, science, and physical education instructors in local schools. They will be having a training session for this technology in June. The issue of network security was raised, with the suggestion that any project involving a connection to the campus network needs to be cleared through Janice Cliett.
4. Faculty and departmental web pages were discussed.
 - Dr. Ianno said that a dedicated server will be made for faculty web pages. This server will run Windows 2000 and will facilitate publication on the web for Microsoft FrontPage users.
 - The appearance of faculty and departmental web pages was discussed. Faculty and departmental web pages are currently a mix of different styles. The advantages and disadvantages of having a consistent GSW appearance were discussed. It was noted that University Relations said about a year and a half ago that all web pages were supposed to be approved by University Relations. It is unclear if this policy is still in effect. It is also unclear if there has been an administrative decision on having a consistent web page appearance. Gary Fisk volunteered to look into this issue for the next meeting
5. Royce Hackett would like to increase the number of student assistants in OIT. These assistants would help faculty members with web pages and similar projects. There was a general feeling that this is a good idea, but it was uncertain where the funds for these workers would come from.

Next meeting: April 16 at 3:30 in the Morgan Hall conference room.