

ITAC committee minutes from 9/17/03

1. The meeting began with several items from Anthony Ianno.
 - a. Technology leadership coalition meeting in Albany at the end of September. This is a Georgia Tech sponsored initiative to bring community leaders in technology together.
 - b. The recently announced rules on keeping computers free of pornography were clarified. People who accidentally receive pornographic spam emails are not targeted. The focus is on individuals who show patterns of abuse.
 - c. A web page is being constructed to highlight innovative technology projects on campus. Examples of projects that might be highlighted include the National Cash Register grant, video production in the Art department, Distinguished Professor Grants, and the new telescope.
2. The primary goal of the meeting was to begin prioritizing how student technology fee money should be spent.
 - a. Royce Hackett met with representatives from student government. Their technology wish list included Macromedia web software, new digital cameras, a color laser printer that can print to the edge of the page, scanners for the computer labs, increased staffing for the computer labs, optical character recognition (OCR) software for converting scanned documents into text, and CD burners for the computer labs. The computer labs in the dorm were apparently a sore point. Students cited hardware problems and a lack of staffing as problems that needed improvement.
 - b. In addition to the above, several other requests have been made. The Business school has requested lab furniture for a new computer lab. Monica Taylor from Student Health requested funds for purchasing a health services software package. Darcy Schraufnagel requested funding for a campus security system that would enable video camera surveillance of particular sites on campus.
 - c. The committee discussed the merits of the above requests.
 - d. Concern was raised that there is no legitimate use for OCR software in the computer labs. This is a technology that could facilitate plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Additional justification will be needed to support the request for OCR software.
 - e. Concern was raised that the print-to-the-edge printer might not be very useful for most students. These printers are also very expensive, so strong evidence of need would be necessary to justify the cost.
 - f. The condition of the dorm computer labs was identified as a top priority. Anthony Ianno discussed increased monitoring of these areas to fix potential problems.
 - g. CD burners were generally thought to be a relatively inexpensive improvement that would have a wide ranging impact. CDR and CDRW are increasingly becoming the removable storage medium of choice now that floppy disks are obsolete and zip disk prices remain high. Concern was raised, however, that this would facilitate illegal duplication of music CDs.
 - h. Concern was raised that digital cameras might be a problem because they are easy to steal. Chuck Lawson, however, says that the current digital cameras in the Art dept. and those used by student publications are obsolete and need to be upgraded.
 - i. Scanners were identified as a potentially cheap and useful upgrade. Students may need these for preparing PowerPoint presentations and for scanning photos. Vera Weisskopf raised concern that these could be used to illegally duplicate copyrighted materials. Possible one scanner per lab would be sufficient.
 - j. Wireless technology was also raised as a potential technology that needs funding.
3. Royce Hackett will meet again (9/26) with the student representatives and come up with a final list.

4. Preliminary priorities

a. High priority for funding: 1. Dorm computer labs, 2. CD burners, 3. Business computer lab furniture, 4. Digital cameras and scanners, 5. Wireless technology

b. Work study staffing has merit, but there was some concern over funding student workers.

c. Not recommended for funding: 1. Taylor's request for medical services software, 2. Schraufnagel's surveillance system, 3. color laser printers that can print to the edge of the paper, 4. OCR software.

Next meeting: October 15 at 3:00

Attendance: Bryan Davis, Carl Mueller, Chuck Lawson, Nancy Morris, Royce Hackett, Anthony Ianno, Vera Weisskopf, Gary Fisk, Mohammed Talukdar, Stephanie Harvey