Tech Fee Committee Meeting Minutes – 2/20/14

5:00pm
Black 141

Present: Chris Pratz, Colin Pringle, Sandy Sperline, Yosef Gamble, Ian Loverro and John Anvik.

Chris called the meeting to order and handed it over to Colin. Colin started with old business – he discussed wording said at the Nov. 15, 2013 meeting regarding members missing meetings and the legality of minority voting. At the Feb. 6th meeting 3 members were present and the voting was legit. Chris interjected that he was, pushing as a facilitator, we as the Tech Fee Committee would need to make decisions and he would like to have the involvement of students present to make these decisions.

Colin stated that we have approved previously, funding for the Library laptops, allocating $25,000; another $25,000 for SURC laptops and allocated $125,000 to CSS for lab renewals. CSS will replace iMacs in the L & L 104 lab, Dean 230, Ed Tech Center 106 and 1 other one and will order monitors for SS 217/218.

We went over purposed request for the zipper to be funded as a lab, approved. Chris will order 8 – Windows 8 touch screens to replace the older macs now in the zipper. The committee declined to take over several small rooms in the zipper area, so if new equipment is wanted in those rooms, it will be department funded by the Ed Tech Center.

The Library originally requested 6 laptops for CWU centers, the committee approved to buy 10 laptops with 5 each going to the Des Moines and Lynnwood centers.   Chris believes the Library laptops have been ordered.

Ian would like to see requests written on the form which is available on the website. They need to be more professional and clearer. Everyone agreed and people will be directed to the website to use the form.

Colin talked about replacing lost members. Jacob Whittman emailed Colin to let him know he would be unable to attend the meetings for the remainder of the winter quarter. Myles Glover was dropped last meeting and Avery Pellet has been dropped at this meeting. Colin has placed a form on the website for students to apply to be on this committee. Colin would like us all to get the word out to students about the Tech Fee Committee. We could post it on MyCWU or Central Today, however, Central Today goes to faculty and staff, not students. Next meeting we'll see if we need to advertise. The next meeting on March 6th will be the last meeting for winter quarter.

There is a request from Chris Pratz for money for computer labs. Chris would like to advance the lab renewal cycle a bit. He stated we have about $300,000.00 additional surplus money coming into this year. He would like approx. $65,000, depending on what kind of bids will come back from the vendors, for monitors and computers for Shaw/Smyser 217 and 218. The machines in those two labs are about 3 ½ years old and need to be replaced soon. He is contemplating going with LaNevo computer, which has a small mini-mac type computer, which bolts onto the back of the monitor. This will leave more desk space for students. He's still in the process of checking these out and hopes to get a sample to look at. The drawback of the machine, is they do not have a DVD drive. We can possibly have a USB connector taped to the pedestal of the monitor for students to use a flash drive. Ian agreed with this, since students seem to forget their drive in the back of computers.   Colin suggested maybe not approving the request and to save the money for bigger projects down the line. Chris said if the request was not approved he would buy the new equipment for SS 217/218 next year

with the renewal budget. Colin would like to see us go toward VDI (virtual Desktop Environment) so would like to hang on to the funds. Chris has brought this subject up with Greg Harvill, N & O Director before as well as Noah Rodriquez (Greg's predecessor). Greg's not sure VDI will work in the labs due to the topography on campus is too congested. Lengthy discussion followed. Colin suggested the possibility of hiring someone to come in and look at this option, would it be feasible to do so? Could we talk with someone in N & O about a schematic of real world data on this? Chris stated Lillian did a study about 3 years ago, came back with a proposal of approx. $347,000 to do all labs on campus with the server hosted in the Wildcat Shop. This proposal did not include hardware for the backend, just to develop the environment. Money was not there, so it was dropped. Brought again at one point, money not there, was dropped. Discussion followed about servers in strategic places around campus. Chris will approach Greg about coming to talk with us at the next meeting. Getting back to approving the $65,000, Yosef asked if the money could be halved to accommodate 1 of the labs. Chris explained why he did not want to do that – labs connected, two of our biggest labs (36 machines each), maintenance wise, usage, etc. Colin asked how SS 216 Mac lab was funded, Chris said it was one of our labs and funded by the tech fee. 216 was updated last year. Request was voted and was rejected. Will possibly revisit at the next meeting when we have more information on a VDI solution. Chris suggested doing a pilot for the VDI program using 1 lab on campus.

Colin asked if there was any more new business. A discussion followed regarding where we would like to see the Tech Fee Committee go – continuity in committee members and faulty; is there a rule book for the committee; who are we under; does BOD have expectations and what are they as a committee? Yosef will gather more information from Bryan Elliott, BOD President.

Chris added one more item before meeting was adjorned. Since the committee rejected the allocation of the $65,000, he would like to pull it off the table for now. He'll order the iMacs for the other labs and will shelf his request at this time. Especially if we are entertaining the VDI solution.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.