



MEETING MINUTES

Technology Planning Committee: a Sub-Committee of
the District Planning and Advisory Council

4/22/2011 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Library Curriculum Room (193)

Members Present

Michael Maylahn, Waleed Nasr, Julie Yarrish, Lee Johnston, Christine Miller, Jocelyn Chong, Sal Veas, Bob Dammer, Tom Peters, Steve Peterson

I. Call to Order – 10:30 AM

a. Minutes from March 18, 2011 meeting reviewed and approved.

II. Action Items

- a. Bob to contact Teresita to get clarification on schedule of new SMC web site rollout.
- b. Sal to place Google Apps roll-out on agenda for the next Academic Senate meeting, pending resolution of accessibility issues.
- c. Wendy to edit Jocelyn's new IT Stack document with an eye to inserting explanations and terms more accessible to readers without technical backgrounds.
- d. Randy Lawson/Eric Oifer to be invited to meeting (after construction of IT mind map) to offer feedback on committee goals.

III. Announcements

- a. Associated Students representative Michael Maylahn was welcomed to his first meeting and introduced to committee members.
- b. Bob announced that the new SMC web site is moving forward and is slated to be brought up in summer. Web activity on the old site is expected to be frozen at the beginning of May while the transition to the new site takes place.

IV. Reports

- a. Tom reported on Google Apps accessibility issues, using a laptop to project a demonstration of user failure attempting to utilize a screen-reader on a Google Apps page. Tom mentioned that Gmail itself does not have issues because Google offers a basic HTML version of Gmail that will allow a screen-reader to operate properly. He also mentioned that some major institutions are in the process of adopting Google Apps, which implies that they

must think Google will be resolving its accessibility issues at some point.

V. Discussion Items

- a. The committee discussed ramifications of the schedule of the new SMC web site rollout. Lee requested a list of web masters who should receive notice as far as the upcoming change. Jocelyn voiced concern that the fact that training for web content managers will not take place until after the web site has been converted may extend the freezing of the web site. Sal felt that web site should be rolled out before summer.
- b. The committee discussed the issue around Google Apps accessibility. It was agreed that if Google does not make its Apps accessible, then SMC cannot adopt them for use by faculty and students. Jocelyn and Lee agreed that Google has committed itself to fixing these issues, and Tom mentioned a Google rep hinting that there might be an important announcement on May 12 in this regard. There was heavy discussion on how to approach the possible Google Apps pilot project expansion in this uncertain context. It was agreed that Sal would place expansion of the Google Apps project on the Academic Senate's next meeting agenda, pending Google's success in addressing accessibility issues.
- c. The committee discussed Jocelyn's new document illustrating the IT Stack model of computing support vs. the Cloud Services model, and plans for transitioning from the older model to the newer one. Jocelyn pointed out that one of the main points of her document is to start the discussion about validating the direction SMC technology needs to take, and the discussion about the planning steps that will be necessary for making the transition to mobile/cloud oriented computing. Sal suggested that there would probably be many valid paths that could be taken to make the transition and perhaps one plan might involve ID'ing a couple of mobile computing solutions and recommending them – perhaps solutions that have already been developed by organizations with deeper pockets than SMC. Some platforms and OS's were discussed, including Android, Blackberry, iPhone, Ipad, and WebOS. Tom mentioned he was impressed with the iPad 2 from an accessibility standpoint, and the accessibility of other platforms/OS's was briefly discussed. Discussion seemed to gravitate around the two OS's Android and iOS. Jocelyn stated that this was a decision that should be made in a very deliberate and formal way. Some factors affecting a decision like this were mentioned, one of them being student usage patterns. Michael

voiced his opinion that just about every student has texting capability, though many still cannot afford laptops or the feature heavy phones that come bundled with expensive plans. As a personal anecdote Michael mentioned that he tends to stick with using the 3G capability of his own phone because the wireless connectivity on campus has been unreliable. Other members mentioned that he might want to try out the wireless connectivity again since a considerable amount of wireless equipment has been installed around campus recently. There was also some discussion of what to do with the original Mind Map of IT Services and Resources and Sal's visual representation of that map, and the committee seemed to generally agree that they should all be merged together.

VI. Adjournment – 12:00 PM