Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 19, 2005
Location: Room 213 D
Time: 10:30 – 11:30

Agenda:
- Review technology survey status; EMBAnet; Alumni DB follow-up; Off-campus email access;
- Technology committee website; note on Real Estate club website; Meeting with HP; Virtual Office

Attendance:
- Andrew Hawthorne
- Ben Fischer
- Tyson Weihs
- Robert Brackenridge

Issues covered

Old business:
We started the meeting with a discussion about the best way to approach getting issues resolved with IT. The example mentioned was the email issue plaguing certain students. We decided our goal was to elevate the status of issues and get from IT a time commitment on resolution.

Andrew then updated us on the status of the survey. HE noted 79 complete surveys (24%), 3% partial, 94 visits. Andrew committed to sending a reminder email. Committee agreed that all responses will remain confidential, and that Andrew would report only unidentified raw data to the committee. We also discussed additional ways to market the survey, including personal contacts and using a Kiosk at Partio.

We then discussed the upcoming HP meeting. Topics we thought should be mentioned during the meeting included:
- Battery failure issues
- Weight – educating HP about the form factors/bags distributed.
- Wireless, and the fact that students are mobile and need good wireless components because they are accessing wireless networks from a number of locations.
- Mobility
- Durability, ad compared to last year’s laptops, may be less.
- Backup – is there a more easily integrated service available? Should backup be integrated by default?
- Quality of the drive bays; we noted that the design of the
bays seems weak and that there are lots of catches on the bottom that can snag on bags.

- PCMCIA bays do not fit the cards well, and the plastic inserts are cheap.
- Is there a power supply with a short cord option.

We then discussed EMBAnet and clarified what the purpose of the EMBAnet research was. We noted that the purpose was to see if EMBAnet could provide one aspect of our envisioned portal, which is a consistent method of presenting course material, syllabi, and course documents to the students. As an aside, we also mentioned that the survey was not going to be delivered to the EMBA students. Robert agreed to produce a report of the features functions of EMBA.net by 2/1.

We discussed the alumni database issue, and Ben agreed to write up his report on the issue, including recommendations.

We moved on to discuss the CPC Center website migration over the break. Questions we asked included “why did the site launch over Christmas”, “why was there a process change mid-year when students already were familiar with the old CPC site”, and that the timing of the release was poor. Tyson agreed to relay thoughts to the CPC.

WebCT – the committee expressed some frustration over the fact that some are using WebCT and some are not, and that professors griped about using it directly to the students. Suggestions made included using a unified approach to delivering course content.