

ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY GROUP 8 MEETING

1/17/08

After our meeting next week, 1/29/08, at 1:30 pm, standing meetings will be every other Tuesday at the same time. Melva Williams, as Facilitator, will notify via e-mail members of venue.

How and where can technological advancements help Xavier to become more effective, given its competitors? What types of advancement in technology could help our faculty do a better job in teaching and scholarship/research?

1. Antoine observed from his perspective there is a need for student surveys to be electronic to reduce the occurrence of errors in reporting results.

Dr. Giguette noted that technology in the use of surveys is not in full use. For example, a survey distributed at Faculty Institute is hard copy, lengthy, and thus may yield fewer submissions than desired. Student evaluations of faculty was one exception because of resistance faculty has raised in the past about not having control over the process by which surveys are issued, completed, and collected. They are concerned about security and confidentiality.

We need software that can ensure security, confidentiality, and equity. Dr. Giguette noted that Scantron does have software that should allay the concerns of faculty. This topic will be under review by Academic Council.

2. Dr. Giguette cited several items that resulted from a survey taken by faculty during Faculty Institute last week.

Should laptops become a requirement for students enrolled at Xavier? Current desk physical attributes do not comfortably accommodate the use of laptops in the classroom. As Dr. Arora pointed out, changing the physical attributes of the desks to comfortably accommodate laptops can adversely impact the room capacity. Dr. Spillman noted that the configuration of the Language Lab is ideal for students to work with their books and laptops, because long tables are used.

Wireless communications, though now prevalent around the campus, can create a conflict if an instructor desires not to have it turned on. Presently, we can turn it on or off for a designated area, but do not have technology in place to partition the use within the same designated area. Dr. Giguette believes there is technology available that can do this. Dr. Spillman suggested that presently instructors would have to coordinate with each other on the use of wireless to eliminate conflict when the use of wireless technology is not desired.

Door access was the last item mentioned by Dr. Giguette. Presently, to get in the office after hours, Campus Police has to be contacted. I mentioned that in getting

the Blackboard Card System, one of the objectives is to implement door access. This is a goal that has to be implemented in partnership with Mr. Bracy and Mr. Tregre. We know that it will happen, but don't know to what extent and when. Study labs, research labs, and dorms are good candidates for door access technology.

Dr. Hema stated that Blackboard is an under-utilized technology for teaching. Drs. Arora, Spillman, and Giguette agreed that faculty should be made aware of the uses of Blackboard that can enhance their teaching experience.

Dr. Giguette also noted that technology tools recently acquired, such as Retain, are under-utilized by the Office of Academic Enhancement.

She further stated that we should hear, from a student's perspective, how technology can impact their college experience. There was some discussion about text messaging and we all agreed that it is pervasive among students.

We briefly talked about E2campus, and expanding its use to sending out alerts and reminders for students to take care of financial aid business or related to registration, being fiscally cleared. I mentioned that just this past registration Kendra Tircuit and Pat Vaultz recommended doing just that in the near future. The only caveat is that we have to inform students to subscribe to the Registration/Financial Aid group, which already exists.

Dr. Spillman brought up blogging, that she has her student blog oral histories. One of her students recommended using Blackboard, which has discussion boards. It was observed that Dr. Homan requires his students to blog daily.

I mentioned to Antoine after the meeting that Fiscal is preparing to eliminate paper checks to students and issue all pay and refunds via a debit card.

All agreed that we should have student representation in our group. Antoine will follow up on this.