Academic Technology Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING: 02/03/06 APPROVED BY COMMITTEE:_______
Submitted Exec. Committee:_______ Approved by Exec. Committee:_______
Submitted Academic Senate:_______ Approved by Academic Senate:_______

Members Present: John Adams, Larry Chu, Kimberly Embleton, Xiyi Hang, John (Jay) Holden, Daniel Hosken, Mingfang Li, Gloria Melara, John Noga, Jacek Polewczak and Ashley Skylar.

Minutes: Stacey Schaaf

Guests: Steven Fitzgerald, Joseph O’Connor, and Rick Shaw.

1. The meeting was called to order late, at about 3:00pm, following the 2:00pm Faculty Leadership Session with CIO Candidate John Lawson.

2. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the meeting of 12/02/05 were approved.

3. Announcements – Steven Fitzgerald reported that ITR had made performance corrections on the university portal and was working on improving access. Majordomo lists were generated for each class and made available to faculty two weeks before the semester began as attachments to their course rosters in the Enrollment management system (SOLAR).

4. CIO’s Report – Bob Moulton reminded the committee that it is not cost effective to build technology for peak periods. Adjustments and changes have been made. A new portal will be the solution. The problem should never again be as bad as it was at the beginning of this Spring, 2006 semester. Rick Shaw, Director, New Portal and Web Development will be developing a user profile for faculty, so that when they log on to the system, it will recognize them and know that they are faculty. One portal issue seems to be browser compatibility. He said that web services on campus should function in a browser agnostic form.

5. Joseph O’Connor, Manager, University Web Communications, University Advancement – O’Connor intends to develop a template for faculty web pages with web standards embedded that meet ADA 508 compliance standards. ADA compliance checks are in place and available to web developers on campus. The software program Contribute easily converts word processing documents for web accessibility and ADA compliance. It will be deployed following an analysis of content management system platforms. Stipends and release time will be made available to faculty in August for development and review of a standard. Three CSU campuses have been successfully sued re: accessibility, CSULB, CSUSF, and CSUDH. There are 37.5 million, or 14% of the population, with a qualifying disability. Mr. O’Connor explained that a component of the requirement is that any picture on any government webpage must have an alt tag to describe
the picture. If the picture is used to communicate information, then the alt tag must describe what information the picture conveys. He also announced to the committee that additional support is available through Mary Ann Cummings Prager’s office in the Center on Disabilities. They would be able to assist with complicated pdf’s or for instance, a very complicated math equation. He said that the law is not there to disrupt business. Therefore, not everything has to be compliant right away. He intends to make a majority of web content available.