

Technology Task Force
Foothill College
Minutes for December 3, 2009 Meeting

Attendance: Mark Anderson, Judy Baker, Carleen Bruins, David Garrido, Kurt Hueg, Gay Krause, Amy Lee, Tahiya Marome, Peter Murray, Shelley Schreiber, Fred Sherman, Pam Wilkes

1. Measure C Computer Replacement Fund Allocations and Guidelines

Fred Sherman reviewed a plan he has put together to address the shortage of bond funds that will occur if the colleges continue to spend at the same pace for computer replacements. **Mike Brandy** requested that Sherman put the plan together, to address the potential for bond funds to run out prior to the 12 and a half years remaining on Measure C. **Brandy** and the Senior Staff feel we are obligated to the voters to ensure funding is spread out throughout the entire cycle of the bond, through 2021-2022.

Sherman's plan calls for continuing funding and staffing levels at the current rate through 2013-2014, with shortfalls in funding starting in 2014-2015 of \$431,344 and increasing incrementally to a shortfall of \$571,112 in 2021-2022. This shortfall would need to be picked up to continue computer replacements at the current level by Foothill College. De Anza faces a similar shortfall.

The plan calls for shifting Foothill acquisition allocation funds to ETS labor allocation, in order to maintain existing staffing and to provide quick service and response time in replacing computer. The plan also creates a new inventory of 30 computers that will ensure work is completed when staff have time available and are not delayed by purchasing.

In addition, Sherman discussed a similar plan for multimedia installations that will shift Foothill acquisition allocation dollars to ETS labor allocation, amounting to a cost of \$20,000 per year, equivalent to one multimedia installation per year, in order to preserve staffing for multimedia installations.

Foothill committee members had numerous questions and suggestions regarding the plan.

Peter Murray suggested we look at leasing computers instead of purchasing. In addition, Murray suggested a new three tier standard for computer purchases, with a new low-end, high quality option (\$500-\$800) that could serve the needs of low-power users and labs, and create savings for the college acquisition budget and thereby extend the funds further than the current estimates. Current estimates are based on cost of \$1,800 per computer, although current purchases are approximately \$1,500.

Sherman said that ETS is looking at “Thin Client” type computer for the future, which allows cheap low-end computers to connect to a more powerful network than we currently support.

Pam Wilkes discussed the large demand the library is experiencing in the media center and elsewhere for computers. Online resources are more important than ever and often librarians cannot find an open computer to demonstrate or assist students with. She also said the librarians would prefer a lower-end computer because the majority of students are simply Web browsing or accessing basic software such as Office.

Murray suggested a lease-purchase option for students to buy laptops from the college.

Gay Krause reminded the committee that the KCI donates its older computers to EOPS so students in need have a computer.

Mark Anderson discussed the policy in the Idea Lab where students must provide their own hard drive. Students cannot leave work on lab computers, and often files are so large they need a large storage device in order to keep a portfolio or work. The committee discussed having a low-cost external hard drive available to students possibly through the bookstore, that would serve students who use lab computers and need to store files.

Summary: The Tech Task Force strongly recommends that a low-cost computing option be adopted by the ETAC Computer Standards Committee, to lower overall replacement costs throughout the life of Measure C. Each Senate will review the proposed policy, as will the Deans/Administrators at their next meeting, for feedback and review. There are strong concerns about shifting acquisition funds to labor and alternatives are strongly recommended.

Edustream: Tahiya Marome presented on the new service for data storage for faculty, staff and students, provided by the college’s new participation in Edustream, a free data and content storage provider run in conjunction with the California Community College Chancellor’s Office. The service offers Foothill 100 gigs of storage space. Marome also discussed an idea she has around creating a business for developing online educational applications for online faculty.

Tech Master Plan: Hueg announced that Judy Baker, Pam Wilkes and he are confirmed for chairing the plan to date. Hueg asked Garrido to take back to classified senate a request for a chair for the Tech Master Plan for classified. Hueg will also follow up with Daphne Small for a student representative, possibly Amy Lee, our Tech Task Force student rep.

Next Meeting

Tech Master Plan Draft and Timeline Discussion

Social Media Policy First Reading

Web Site Update