Information Technology Committee
Minutes
2006-2007 Meeting #4
January 24, 2007, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)

Present: Anderson (Chair), Krogh, Merrell, Pendergraft, Schlater
Absent: Cronk, Frenzel, Funabiki, Goodwin, Hughett

Call to Order: Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in room 101 of the Ag Biotech Building

Business:

1) New Committee Member
The committee welcomed Dr. Gene Merrell, representative for the University of Idaho Research Office and replacement for Dr. Chuck Hatch who retired at the end of 2006.

2) IT Security
Reviewed and discussed the computer security issues that recently arose at the university. Also discussed current activities of the Information Technology Advisory Group that related to computer security.

On January 22, 2007 university administration distributed notice of the immediate implementation of four emergency computer security policies. The policies, listed below, were added to the Administrative Procedures Manual:
- APM 30.13 – Networked Computing Device Standards
- APM 30.14 – Proactive Network Security Measures
- APM 30.15 – Password Standards
- APM 30.16 – Managing Systems for Employee Turnover

In general, the committee members felt that the new security policies were a positive step. The policies were not a surprise and had been expected for some time. Many of the new security measures were targeted at vulnerabilities in Banner. Most faculty users probably would not be significantly impacted by the changes. More concerns were expressed regarding the password policy. Some of the password management requirements appeared unmanageable such as item B-2 (7) which prohibits users from writing passwords down or storing them in their office. Committee members also pointed out that the Banner system, as currently configured, cannot accommodate the use of strong passwords.

The committee recommends that ITS make the adoption of a single sign-on or log-in a high priority project. This change would have direct benefits for all IT users (i.e., increased efficiency and improved security).

One committee member expressed concerns regarding a section in the University of Idaho Computer Use Policy dated January 21, 2007. The section is titled “Working Environment” and the passage that raised the concerns states:

“Users of any electronic communications shall not send or post messages that are libelous, patently offensive, or that intimidate, threaten, demean or harass individuals or groups, or that would otherwise bring discredit to the university.”

The primary concern was that the language in the Computer Use Policy document could be used to inhibit free speech.
3) **WebCT Upgrade to Version 6**  
David Schlater distributed a draft plan and timeline for the upgrade to WebCT Campus Edition version 6. David asked committee members to review the plan and to identify any possible concerns. He also is open to receiving suggestions regarding the upgrade plan. David mentioned that the timeline is under revision. He is planning to move faculty off of the current version of WebCT (version 4) during the summer.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2007 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Professor Erik T. Anderson, Chair 2006-2007