Minutes of the Academic Information Technology Committee
25 March 2004

Present: Vijay Agrawal, Greg Anderson (Chair), Joe Benz, Nanette Hogg, Dustin Kozal (Student Senate), Deb Schroeder, Janet Wilke (Interim Library Director)

Absent: Sri Seshadri, Robert Walden

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order a few minutes after 2 PM.

Agenda Items

1) Blackboard survey. In early March Andrea Childress asked members of the Committee to preview and comment upon a course management software survey (Blackboard). Conceived by Gail Latta, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UNL, this survey will ask faculty about their satisfaction with Blackboard and preferences for future enhancements. Committee members reported that they had responded, mostly with suggestions on how to customize the instrument for UNK. The survey will be e-mailed to faculty, probably in April.

2) Blackboard upgrade. Schroeder reported that UNK has to upgrade from Blackboard version 5.6 because it will no longer be supported. UNK is probably going to version 6.1 for this fall. The upgrade will require new servers. It will probably happen in May; ITS will announce when and what version. The University-wide Blackboard license has been extended one year.

3) E-Portfolio update. Schroeder reported that the e-portfolio software is up and running. The URL is <http://uptime.unk.edu:8080/portfolio/>. Each account is allocated 2M of storage. Faculty interested in participating in testing the software are invited to set up trial accounts and provide feedback to either Greg Anderson or Deb Schroeder.

4) Using technology to promote UNK. Discussion continued from meeting of 20 February.

Relevant points of information:

* Schroeder passed out copies of It’s About You! An EDUCAUSE Guide to Evaluating Information Technology on Campus, a pamphlet designed to help prospective students, and their parents, evaluate a campus’ information
infrastructure. A PDF copy is appended. Many schools have posted responses on their websites; links can be found at <http://educause.edu/consumerguide>. UNK’s response is at <http://www.unk.edu/welcome/techreport/educause.html>.

* Summer Advising is a key event for promoting technology at UNK. ITS is developing a multimedia presentation for Financial Aid. The Chancellor and the Mayor will participate in another multimedia presentation about 10 minutes long.

* Schroeder has suggested technology topics for next fall’s UNK Today. Suggestions include wireless, labs, taking care of one’s computer, and peer-to-peer and copyright issues.

* Kozal commented that students don’t see information technology as a set of discrete items, but as more of an “ambiance.”

* It is clear that this issue involves other stakeholders such as Admissions and the Office of Communications. Schroeder offered to bring up the matter at the next TAC (Technology Assessment Committee) meeting, which, by pure happenstance, was scheduled immediately following the AIT meeting, and to report back to the Committee. Stay tuned for further details.

There being no other business, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting a several minutes before 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Anderson
Chair and Secretary pro tem