

SGA IT Committee Meeting Minutes

Time and Place of Meeting: The meeting took place in Bobby Flack's office on Thursday January 25, 2007 at 3:30pm-4:00pm approx.

Attendance: Ralph Jones, IT co-chair was in attendance along with Bobby Flack, Chief Information Officer for Mount St. Mary's University. (Mike Sorrentino had to attend Mock Trial meeting at this time; Bobby Flack could only meet at this time).

Topics Discussed:




- **Wireless Network Access in Dorms:** Ralph Jones mentioned that one of SGA's top ten goals for the semester is to obtain wireless internet connections in the dormitories. Bobby Flack mentioned that adding wireless connections to dorms is also a priority for IT. Flack explained that the IT department has funding for partial installation of wireless networking in dorms for its 07-08 fiscal year budget. The plan is to install wireless internet access using new wireless extenders (a method that should keep costs down and increase coverage) in 2 as yet to be determined dorm buildings over the summer to be ready for the Fall 2007 semester. Providing that the system proves reliable and performs well, IT would then proceed to (pending funding) install similar wireless networking in other dorms. Jones inquired about the speed of the wireless adapters planned for the dorms. Flack responded that IT would probably use 54 megabit (wireless-G) adapters. This is a cost-effective solution. Flack did admit that internet speed would be slower when using the wireless connections.
- **Synchronized Computer Time Problems:** Jones related to Flack that several students have noticed that the time synchronized on computers across campus is incorrect, sometimes by as much as five minutes. Flack said that he would have IT staff take a look at the problem; the time is supposed to be synchronized with the U.S. atomic clock and should always be accurate. In the mean time students should use other time sources to figure out the right time (a watch, for example) Resetting each computer's clock is only a temporary solution as the computers will re-sync the time and it will be incorrect once again.
- **Sharepoint Collaboration Software:** Bobby Flack discussed implementing SharePoint services (a Microsoft product) to help SGA achieve its communication goals. Members of SGA could log on to review proposals, committee meeting minutes, and other pertinent information. Polls could also be designed so that members and/or the student body could indicate feelings/impressions about proposals prior to meetings. Flack is setting up administrator accounts for Ralph Jones and Mike Sorrentino so that they can start exploring/preparing this system for SGA. More details to follow.
- **BlackBoard:** Flack announced that the Mount has purchased a license for the BlackBoard online educational collaboration software/service. Final details are still being resolved and Flack said he will have more information soon.
- **Office 2007/Windows Vista:** Ralph Jones inquired about if/when the Mount plans to transition to Microsoft Office 2007 and Windows Vista. Flack responded that the IT department is currently testing both products. Office 2007 will probably be deployed to student laptops at some point during this summer. Windows Vista

will be included on laptops purchased by future classes. Windows Vista Business or Windows Vista Ultimate are both being considered for implementation in future laptop purchases. Increases in system memory (moving from 1 GB to 2 GB) are also being considered for future laptop purchases. Information is still tentative. Windows Vista will not be deployed on older laptops due to the impracticality of such an endeavor and hardware compatibility issues.

Outcomes:

- ✓ Wireless networking will come to some of the dorms in the upcoming Fall 2007 semester; the rest of the dorms will receive wireless at some point in subsequent semesters.
- ✓ SharePoint will help accomplish SGA's communication and transparency goals.
- ✓ The computer time issues should be resolved soon.

Plans for Future Meetings:

-  Discuss details of implementing SharePoint
-  Verify that the time issues have been corrected
-  Discuss problems with the Mount website.