FerrisConnect Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2011 – 11:00-12:00 pm IRC 131

In attendance: Mary Holmes, Bea Griffith-Cooper, Amy Buse, Emily Mitchell, Meegan Lillis, Scott Randle, John Urbanick, Kim Hancock, Robbie Teahen, Larry Bajor, via Adobe: Kim Carlton-Smith, Marcy Parry, Randy Vance.

1. Drive Space
   - Is 20 MB big enough for student uploads?
     - Students are having issues submitting assignments such as Photostory, surveying documents, and other multimedia files.
     - The request can from the surveying department so the students can upload maps and so forth.
       - As a work around, they have opened up separate gmail accounts to have students email their assignments to them here.
         - This puts the assignments outside of the course space and outside of what FSU can help with if issues arise.
     - If we are going to grow online, we need to be able to have the disk space available. Conversations over small size upgrades are irrelevant and do not solve the overall problem.
       - We may need to find a creative solution to find a way to spread the cost of server space across campus. We are expanding use of technology and media in our teaching in FerrisConnect and expecting more of our students in their assignments.
       - We need to talk to bigger institutions to find out how they are dealing with these size issues; we only have 14,000 students.
         - Mary says they do have these conversations and other institutions are implementing boatloads of SAN space.
     - What is the $60 online fee being used for?
       - Can this money be used for drive space/server space?
         - It is currently being held for possible needs related to online learning.
     - There is a FerrisConnect budget and there is a line item for technology and we use those funds for upgrades and storage space.
     - We will increase the 20 MB to 100 MB per file upload to see if this will take care of the immediate problem.

2. FerrisConnect 2.0 Course Management System Pilot Update
   - Pulled the pilot group together last Tuesday and received a lot of feedback. We will be meeting as a group once a month.
   - This afternoon the evaluation team is meeting to work on the evaluation forms. Anyone is welcome to come or to send in their feedback.
• The wiki in the Blackboard 9 community course space is available for anyone to access using the fsu_test_user account.

3. Mobile Apps
  • Are we interested in mobile apps at Ferris State University?
    i. iPad, iPhone, Blackberry, and Android compatible
  • Are we willing to pay for this?
    i. Yes. There are other conversations across campus going on about the need for mobile applications.
    ii. Academic Affairs needs the numbers for what this will cost.
  • Do we want to trial this now or wait until we choose the new course management system?
    i. For about $30,000 Blackboard offers you the Blackboard app as well as 16 other applications which Blackboard will work with you to develop to access other items across campus; e.g. campus maps, athletics, etc...
    ii. Sungard also has apps that they give clients for free, but they need to be developed.
    iii. There is a group looking into this in ITS.
  • What does this app allow a user to do? Can you take an assessment, submit an assignment?
    i. The understanding is that the system would be fully functional on a mobile device through the app.

4. SPARC Meeting – This topic was tabled until next meeting.