Introductions
Lynne Jeffers is now the manager of Support Services and has replaced Mark Reynolds on this committee.

Thanks to those of you who were unable to attend today’s meeting and sent replacements in your stead.

Reports:
E-mail Defense System Status (Wendy Woodward)
The amount of junk e-mail coming to northwestern.edu addresses has recently increased, causing the system to slow down and daily digests to be late. As of 2/20, NUIT will begin deleting mail that has a junk mail probability rating of 99 for staff and faculty rather than quarantining it, and blocking anonymous off campus directory queries. Messages sent to students with a probability rating of 95 or higher are already deleted.
Cellular Phone Carrier Status (Wendy Woodward)
Verizon contacted NU recently to try to procure a new antenna location. NU has scheduled a meeting with Nextel to improve communication in the wake of their merger with Sprint. Cingular has approached NU to try to improve access for Kellogg spaces such as the Allen Center. Approaching carriers to request better coverage is not likely to accomplish its goal unless the vendors are interested in investing more funds. Aesthetic concerns are not preventing the erection of new antennae, but the space needs to be negotiated to ensure aesthetic demands are met.

Wireless Usage on Campus (Lynne Jeffers)
There are 570 access points on both campuses. Approximately 2730 unique users access the wireless network on a weekday; on a weekend day there are 1000 unique users. The average peak of concurrent users is 1200, with a high of 1750. Usage continues to grow. Through NUIT’s converged communications initiative schools have been improving wireless coverage in their buildings.

ResNet Drop-In Locations (Lynne Jeffers)
Since the trial resumed on 1/10, about 40 students have been assisted. They appreciate the convenience and locations, but more advertising is needed to educate students about this option. A HereAndNow link has been requested; Lynne has had trouble getting the PlanIt Purple link to appear on the HAN sidebar. NUIT will monitor the effect the program has on the ResNet budget, and will make decision whether to continue the service at end of year. ASG may be able to pay for Daily ads for student services.

Expansion of NU Smart Classroom Initiative? (Bob Taylor)
At this time, 43% of Registrar-controlled classrooms are “smart.” AT is submitting a proposal to the administration within a month to expand and accelerate the rate at which classrooms are converted, with a goal of basic technology upgrades for 90% of Evanston classrooms by fall of 2009. This will require about $1,000,000 upfront and then additional money to maintain and upgrade the equipment. Many peer institutions have about 60% of their classrooms at this level.

A student reported that some professors have complained that cords are not always in classrooms. Bob Taylor responded that rooms with older equipment may have cords kept in drawers, but most rooms have pull-out cords that don’t detach. Non-functioning equipment (including missing cords) can be reported by
calling (847) 467-ROOM (7666). Rooms that are not Registrar-controlled may not be AT’s responsibility.

**University Library Information Commons Update (Bob Davis)**
This joint project of AT and the Library has been very busy for well over a year. NU will continue to invest money into that space over the years, and may replicate the model.

**MediaWorks Update (Bob Davis)**
MediaWorks, a state-of-the-art lab reserved for students, continues to grow in terms of usage and investment. AT is sponsoring a contest to create a promotional spot with an iPod prize for the 3rd year.

**Depot Update (Bob Davis)**
There are currently 2,000 licenses for use of this central storage space, and NU is buying another 1000 licenses. Graduate students increasingly use the space to house research work. It’s accessible to any faculty member that wants to use it in support of their teaching or research. The McCormick School of Engineering grants accounts to incoming freshmen. See [https://depot.northwestern.edu/](https://depot.northwestern.edu/).

**Old Business:**
**Requirements for Inspool Space (ASG)**
NUIT did not receive a formal proposal from ASG helping to define the student ideal for e-mail service and inspool space. Storing sent messages on the server is important. Opting into IMAP allows this – see [http://www.it.northwestern.edu/accounts/email/imap/](http://www.it.northwestern.edu/accounts/email/imap/). NUIT is in the process of evaluating e-mail options and would really like to see something in writing from ASG that outlines student e-mail needs. See action items.

**New Business:**
**WebMail Challenges & University E-mail Services (Wendy Woodward)**
Recently, a bug in WebMail has caused a few people to lose their inboxes. The mail can be restored, and NUIT is working to fix this bug. However, this highlights the need to change the software we use. NUIT is investigating Oracle and Exchange, which also have calendar, instant messaging, and web file collaboration features. The Oracle product works better with non-Windows PCs. A decision may be made within the next few weeks.

ASG asked if NUIT would consider outsourcing student e-mail to Gmail. NUIT is in the process of exploring the new outsourced service offerings that Microsoft,
Google, and others are presenting as viable student and alumni alternatives. NUIIT will continue to inform this committee as/if things develop further.

**AutoDesk Products (Wendy Woodward)**
The NUIIT software vendor partner, E-academy, now supply products such as AutoCAD at deeply discounted prices for students. See [http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/staff/dept/autodesksoftware/](http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/staff/dept/autodesksoftware/).

**Pubweb (Wendy Woodward)**
Originally, Pubweb was scheduled to be retired in June 2006. Today, the published retirement date is December 31, 2006, but some departments and schools have requested that the date be moved forward. Pubweb was established as a space to experiment with Web techniques. It offers only 4MB. Usage is dropping due to lack of interest. Alternatives exist for faculty and academic info, including Depot, Blackboard and Sakai. NUIIT met with The Graduate School to discuss alternatives for graduate students who would like a Northwestern branded space to post work relative to their academic and professional pursuit.

An ASG representative made the point that evolving academic use demonstrates the community’s desire for a personal Web publishing space. Access to scripting and more storage could attract many more people. WCAS and other schools may deploy their own alternatives, which could be more expensive than a central solution. Wendy responded that the University cannot afford to invest in personal publishing, but Oracle and Exchange can provide space to publish documents. NUIIT will continue to support the academic needs of the University and explore other alternatives in the future.

Monthly e-mails targeted to Pubweb users include information about where they can host their pages.

**New Committee Makeup for Next Year (Wendy Woodward)**
It’s time to identify next year’s members. Current members Jason Downs and Jeffrey Kaplan want to be replaced by spring. Both outgoing and incoming members should attend the next scheduled meeting. See action items.

**Additional Discussion:**
ASG reported on work to develop NU Link, which is meant to improve upon HereAndNow by allowing total customization, including event information, sites with RSS feeds such as the New York Times & Google news, menus, and headlines. NU Link is currently undergoing beta testing.
ASG reminded NUIT to investigate mapping campus wireless locations because the current list, found at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/oncampus/wireless/locations.html, can be overwhelming.

Discussion ensued along the following lines: Coverage is hard to capture because it may not blanket a building – one solution might be to visually differentiate between buildings with widespread wireless access and buildings with limited access. An interactive map that displays more detailed information when you drag a cursor over buildings could be a solution. Not all NU wireless locations are meant for public use. Maps tailored for schools and departments could be created for school or department sites rather than creating a campus-wide map. A list of access point locations could also be posted at building entrances so that students would know they could access the wireless network. Students need to be better educated about the location list that is already on line. A link on HereAndNow might be an option. NUIT will investigate alternatives and if something reasonable can be done we will report back.

In answer to a question about how much NUIT pushes incoming students to bring laptops, Wendy explained that a publication called “Getting Connected” is sent to incoming students that includes minimum requirements, recommendations, and school requirements. It also provides information about what to expect from NU in terms of technology. Last year’s copy can be found at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/bin/news/2005.pdf.

**Summary of Action Items**

- Ensure a link about the ResNet drop-in service is posted on HAN and will check to make sure PlanIt Purple link goes on HAN. (ASG: Mike Jurewitz)
- Create a formal proposal defining what student’s want for e-mail service and inspool space. (ASG: Mike Jurewitz, Whitney Gretz)
- Set up NU Link demo with NUIT (ASG)
- Identify replacements for representatives who will not return to the committee in 2006-07 and invite them to the spring ’06 meeting. (ASG/NUIT: Rachael Bild)
- Explore wireless map improvements. If something can be done NUIT will report back at the next meeting (NUIT: Lynne Jeffers)
- Explore the posting of a link to the wireless locations off of HereAndNow. (ASG: Mike Jurewitz)
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