Minutes - ASG/IT Advisory Committee  
May 17, 2006, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Committee Members

Student Representatives: 
Jordan Fox, **ASG Academic Vice President:** Present  
Charles Moore, **McCormick:** Present  
Zachary Galin, **Education and Social Policy:** Present  
Kevin Palms, **ASG Technology Director:** Present  
Nishant Goyal, **Weinberg:** Present  
Jordan Rost, **Communication:** Present  
Paul Grajek, **Music:** Present  
Jay Schumacher, **ASG President:** Absent  
Jeffrey Kaplan, **Weinberg:** Absent  
Jack Vrett, **Weinberg:** Absent  
Jonathan Love, **Medill:** Present  
Leah Witt, **ASG Student Services Vice President:** Absent

NUIT Representatives:  
Wendy Woodward, **Director,** **Technology Support Services:** Present  
Bob Taylor, **Director, Academic Technologies:** Present  
Dennis Sage, **Associate Director,** **Technology Support Services:** Present  
Robert Davis, **Associate Director, Academic Technologies:** Absent  
Lynne Jeffers, **Manager, Support Services:** Present  
Rachael Bild, **Support Specialist, Support Services:** Present

Also in attendance: Michael Jurewitz, **former ASG Technology Director;** Shailesh Mittal, **incoming McCormick representative;** Nathan Edwards, **incoming Medill representative;** Harry Samuels, **IT Management Systems Project Manager;** Ayush Singh, **IT Management Systems Senior Programmer Analyst**

Introductions

**Demonstration:**
**Northwestern University Business Portal (Harry Samuels)**
Harry Samuels defined portals and discussed what NU is trying to do with the “Nu Service Portal.” The business portal NU is planning to build will provide an inward-facing personalized central location for services, independent of time and place. Information will be organized by “role” as determined by an individual’s NetID attributes. The proposed service portal will also provide “portlets,” which will serve as windows into other applications such as CAESAR and Blackboard. Portlet creation could be distributed across the University, and may include services from certified external providers such as e-academy. The Nu Service Portal is intended to consolidate access to the University's web-enabled services for casual users as well as power users.

In the proposed design, people would be able to make the portlets they want to see appear on the personal tab, but they will not be able to customize the links in their portlets. Different schools and departments may start by offering exactly the same links in the portlet that they currently provide on their home pages, or they may customize the links based on the number of hits each receives. Successful approaches are likely to be imitated. Single sign-on will enable the portal to show truly personalized information, such as links to your Blackboard course sites.

Ideally, a new browser window will open when you follow links in the portal. The version under development is written in J2EE, and is a customized Oracle product. One advantage the business portal could have over sites like HereAndNow is that it would provide transactional features, such as changing your address in CAESAR. However, some students indicated that they prefer not to log in each time they use the Web. Once back-end systems are enhanced, features like e-mail and calendaring could be available through the portal.
Reports:

Collaboration System Update (Wendy Woodward)
NU is seriously discussing whether or not to outsource student e-mail to Google’s Gmail or Microsoft Windows Live. In order to make this work, student NU e-mail addresses must include more domain information. Student input is needed to complete this domain by replacing the question mark: @?.northwestern.edu. Keep in mind that this address could remain available after graduation. One drawback of handling student and staff/faculty e-mail separately is that calendars won’t mesh. Most students don’t use the current University calendaring system.

Wireless on Campus (Lynne Jeffers)
In response to student input, NUIT is developing a map of campus showing where wireless access is available, and will post it online during the summer. NUIT will work with Kevin to better expose the wireless locations to students.

ResNet Drop-In Service (Lynne Jeffers)
Forty-two students thus far have attended the ResNet drop-ins during Spring Quarter. The overall number of people reporting problems with their computers is currently very low. The drop-in service trial will be evaluated over the summer to determine whether it will be offered next year.

Spring Event at Norris (Lynne Jeffers)
Technology Support Services presented information to students about staying secure and connected all summer long at Norris on 5/10 & 5/11. Students registered to win a digital camera and answered trivia questions for free iTunes gift cards while they were informed about services, including:

- Software discounts
- Making sure Symantec AntiVirus stays updated (see http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/staff/free/antivirus/symantec-faq.html#126)
- E-mail forwarding options after graduation

University Library Information Commons Update (Bob Taylor)
Academic Technologies and the University Library continue to invest and expand services in the Information Commons. Over the summer, a tiled display wall will be constructed. It will enable high-resolution images such as digitized maps to be displayed largely and clearly on a public wall.

Smart Classrooms Update (Bob Taylor)
Academic Technologies submitted a proposal in March to accelerate the process of building and upgrading existing smart classrooms. A million dollars has been allocated to reach the goal of making 90% of Registrar-controlled classrooms “smart” by September 2009. Basic smart classroom equipment includes laptop connectivity, a ceiling mounted projector, a DVD player, and a VCR. The proposal was submitted because a study comparing NU’s smart classrooms to those of peer institutions showed other institutions were converting more classrooms than NU.

MediaWorks Update (Bob Taylor)
MediaWorks, a state-of-the-art lab reserved for students, continues to see growth in use and sophistication of projects. A total of eight cameras are now available to meet the strong demand for video camera checkout.
Google Video (Bob Taylor)
NU will have a "partner page" through http://video.google.com/ where NU videos, such as cultural events, music school operas and special lectures will be featured. Discussion about how this will work and who will choose the videos is ongoing. Some individuals have already uploaded NU videos to Google. UC Berkeley will also participate in the Google video project.

Additional Discussion
Thanks very much to all of the graduating student members of this committee. Special thanks to Mike Jurewitz, who has done a great job as liaison between ASG and NUIT.

Summary of Action Items
• Student input to replace the question mark in the @?.northwestern.edu domain is requested in the event that NU decides to outsource student e-mail to Google. Keep in mind that this address would be available after graduation. (ASG: all)
• Post the finished campus map highlighting wireless locations and inform student representatives. (NUIT: Communications/Rachael Bild)
• Explore ways to better feature the wireless locations to students. (NUIT: Lynne Jeffers; ASG: Kevin Palms)
• Fill open seats. (ASG: Jordan Fox; NUI: Rachael Bild)

Adjourn