

March 2001

Present: Ed Osborn, Sylvia Partida, Gary Weseman, Mary Parker, Paul Thomason, Cecile Sanders, Pauline Hargrave, Donna Pitts, Terry Arzola, Mary Lou Cummings

Web Guidelines: The committee reviewed the final draft of the guidelines and approved them with the following additions/comments:

Item 2 under required was rewritten as: "Page manager names and email addresses should be easily available from every page." Under detail for that item, the following was added: department heads (administration) and pcs, taskforce chairs, or deans as appropriate, are responsible for page content and assigning web page maintenance.

It was suggested that the guidelines be posted to the web, pending any further input from Instructional Leadership Team on April 20.

Internet Courses: Mary Lou Cummings reported on the growth in ACC web-based courses. There are now 100 faculty users of Blackboard, including 40-45 with full-blown courses. 53 sections are being offered this spring; she plans to double that figure by the fall. Blackboard is being used at different levels – syllabus listings, resources for classroom courses, communications (Chat rooms, email), and course development and delivery. The major competition we face is from the private sector. By Fall 2002, we will have the complete Criminal Justice degree online. Biology and communications are also under consideration. We are also putting telecourses online. Mary Lou's next goal is to increase the quality of online courses so they can compete with the private sector.

Search Engine: Paul Thomason reported that Internet Services is reindexing the search engine to look only for keywords/metatags. They will be developing online documentation and will notify staff/faculty web authors (590+) of how to develop metatags. The search engine will automatically search for metatags in new pages every 24 hours; a manual search for existing pages that have added metatags will need to occur every 1-2 weeks in the short term. The search will look down into three levels of the website. Mary Parker indicated she had encountered some inconsistencies with how the search is working currently and Paul said he would investigate. It was also agreed that some sort of notice needs to be posted to the search engine page so internal and external users are aware of how the search engine will function and the status of the conversion.

Home Page Redesign: The Marketing department is working on a home page redesign. It has conducted student focus groups and Ed Osborn asked the committee for additional input. It was agreed that any "bells and whistles" should be linked off the home page vs. being launched automatically when the homepage is loaded. Ed mentioned that his department is almost ready to post a new "Visual Tours" web page with animated slide shows, photographs, audio clips, video clips and more. He also indicated it will eventually include streaming video tours of each campus.) The group also supported the notion of active "mouse overs" on tier two pages. (Good example is yale.edu.) As part of this discussion, the intranet was discussed. A subcommittee (Ed Osborn, Gary Weseman, Mary Parker, Terry Arzola, and Donna Pitts) will look at security issues. Gary also mentioned that new VN client software will help faculty access ACCNET from home using their own ISP (vs. dial up.)

Next meeting set for April 25, 8:30-10:30 in Room 222.

Adjourned.