

## Educational Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Time: 3:00 PM, Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Location: UCC Clock Tower

Attendees:

Brian Horvitz
Brian Carnell
Bradley Morgan
John Stanford
Andrea Beach
Pamela Rups

### Minutes:

#### Personal Response Systems (“clickers”):

The Faculty Senate passed the following resolution:

“Resolved, that the Faculty Senate supports Western Michigan University adopting a single universal student response system (also known as clickers) for classroom purposes.”

The committee discussed the need for data collection regarding this issue. Much of the information will become available as a part of the Higher Learning Commission’s self study which is expected during an October-December time frame. As a part of reviewing “clickers” and their use, it will be important to implement benchmarking of peer institutions. The study of this technology should include a recommendation on permanent installation in a classroom or the recommendation for a portable implementation of the technology. It is important to identify and include present users of clicker systems. In considering various manufacturers of student response systems, the use of multiple units in close proximity will need to be demonstrated. A group of faculty who are currently using clickers will be asked to serve on a committee and assist in selecting the appropriate technologies and vendor of a personal response system.

#### Course Management Systems (CMS):

Blackboard has announced that it is phasing out WebCT and will be replacing it with a Blackboard product. The new product represents a significant change from the current WebCT interface that faculty are familiar with. Blackboard purchased Angel, a competitor in the course management field. This leaves Blackboard, Desire2Learn,

Moodle, and Sakai in the higher education market place. The interface on the Blackboard replacement product will be very different from our current WebCT interface for faculty. The need to relearn the Blackboard interface makes this an excellent time to review the available products and make an informed recommendation on the platform that will best serve WMU. A diverse body of faculty will need to be recruited for this project.