

NDSU Student Government 2007-2008 Technology Commission Project Ideas

Below is an outline of some of the projects that may be looked into by the NDSU Student Government Technology Commission. The purpose of this list is to begin discussion on the topics below as well as spark new ideas for technology at NDSU.

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Bison Information Network

The Bison Information Network (BIN) could serve as the third student media leg at NDSU. NDSU students currently operate The Spectrum and ThunderRadio, a newspaper and radio station respectively. The BIN would serve the NDSU community by offering various types of video media.

While the BIN could start out as simple as rotating power points it could expand to much more. The BIN could feature local news, bison athletics, student produced media, talk shows, upcoming events, and reviews (restaurants, movies etc), among others.

Examples of what other universities have done can be seen at: <http://www.cmutv.org/>, <http://www.ctv11.com/>, and <http://www.texasstudenttv.com/>; a list of other student run TV can be found at <http://www.collegebroadcasters.org/TVlinks.shtml>.

The BIN could start out as a production broadcast across NDSU's local access channel, later it could be broadcast over-the-air and stored online for download to a computer. The possibilities are nearly endless as to what the BIN could do.

NDSU Encyclopedia

The NDSU Encyclopedia will provide a vast amount of information about NDSU. It will be in a wiki format, similar to <http://en.wikipedia.org>. The NDSU Encyclopedia will provide a vast amount of information in an easy to find format. The encyclopedia will include information about the history of NDSU, buildings on campus, student organizations, campus departments, and other NDSU related information. We feel the encyclopedia will be a great resource for current NDSU students as well as prospective students, faculty, staff, and friends of NDSU.

To get a general idea of what the encyclopedia could become please take a look at the Clemson University encyclopedia: <http://www.clemsonwiki.com/>.

Because this is such a vast project many other university entities will be included in the project.

Campus Safety and Security

Look into technological means to improve campus safety and security. This could include: the use of text messaging and phone calls to notify students of safety issues, using TVs to display pertinent campus safety information, the use of technology to secure certain areas, and the use of a public broadcast system, among others.

Use of Technology in the Classroom

There are many technologies that are available or implementable in the classrooms of NDSU that could be of benefit to the student's learning process. While blackboard is used by many professors to provide an easy to use location for course material, there are still many professors that are not using this technology. Looking at ways of promoting the use of blackboard in all classes could prove to be a welcome addition to many students.

Additionally the use of other technologies such as computer presentation of lectures (PowerPoint), the use of PRS, or the use of internet based resources can enhance the learning process of students, while exposing students to various technologies that may be an increasing part of their life.

NDSU Email Services

This project would involve looking into NDSU's current email system and looking at ways it may be improved.

Some concerns expressed by students in the past include:

- Email storage space limits
- Excessive spam
- Slow email delivery
- Lack of filtering options
- Interface issues
- Loss of email after graduation

These issues could be looked into and possible solutions could be developed.

NDSU Printing

Many students have expressed an interest in being able to have more printing options. IE: A student is sitting in their dorm room and they just finished writing a paper. They need to print off the paper, but they don't want to email the paper to themselves or save it on a "jump drive" so they can take it to a computer lab to print it off.

What is the feasibility of allowing the student to print directly from their computer to a Go-Print printer of their choice? An installer program would be made available that

would allow students to pick what printers around campus that they would like added to their “printer list.” The student would then be able to print to whatever Go-Print printer they want, directly from their computer. How about being able to print from off-campus to an on-campus printer so the student can pick it up when they arrive at campus?

NDSU Student Announcement Listserv

This would involve looking into a more comprehensive solution to the current announcement list serv, or could serve as an addition to it. The software running this would target specific messages only to those students it is relevant to. IE: All students would not get an email about what seniors need to do to get ready for their final weeks at NDSU, only graduating seniors would get this message.

Another option would allow students to select what sort of messages they would like to receive, based on categories, IE: technology, books, student organizations, etc. The software would have options similar to those of mailing lists provided by some websites.

NDSU Website

This would look at ways of standardizing the NDSU website. The NDSU website currently has many ways of accessing the same and different parts of it. You may be browsing the website and end up being at pages with different addresses. IE: <http://www.ndsu.edu/>, <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/>, <http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/>, etc. The use of these various addresses can lead to confusion among current and prospective students and others.

What about standardization of the various web pages of departments. IE: <http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/> vs. <http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/deott/registrar/>

Would standardization lead to easier navigation among prospective and current students and the NDSU community, or would the standardization take away the right to freedom of design by each department. Could various levels of standardization be implemented; IE: each page has to have certain links in a footer? How does the current implementation affect prospective students?

NDSU Publicity

This area would look at how NDSU is seen in the vastness of the internet. For example, there are many areas of NDSU on Wikipedia. How does the content/lack of content on

popular websites like Wikipedia affect perspective student's opinion about NDSU? Would it be a good idea to have a taskforce of interested students work on and improve these pages? What about how NDSU is seen on rating websites such as www.ratemyprofessors.com or www.usnews.com or how NDSU can make a list of rankings based on campus technology:

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,2073408,00.asp>

I believe these can be important when looking at drawing new students to NDSU.

Podcasts

How could the NDSU community benefit from the use of podcasting and other means of sharing media? Would the NDSU community benefit if podcasts were available for important campus events or even lectures? Could podcasts or related be used to showcase NDSU?

What about a series of student produced podcasts that could be related/or not to the BIN? These podcasts could be anything from informational videos about campus for new students to comedy to short videos.

Freeware

The use of computers and other technologies are important to the daily lives of students and others in higher education. There are many "packages" that are freely available and can greatly benefit students in many ways.

These "packages" range from [Firefox](#) to [Open Office](#) to free online books. Additionally ITS offers software applications available to students at no cost or discounted prices; this includes free anti-virus software.

Helping students to become more aware of the benefits of freeware could be undertaken in a number of ways. [Clarkson University](#) has a server with nearly 1 terabyte of copyright-free media for students to download.

Freeware CDs could be created and distributed that contain programs such as Firefox, Ad-Aware, FTP software, Thunderbird or other programs. These CDs would be available and contain the installer files as well as instructions on how to install and configure the software.

Along these lines could be documentation that assists the NDSU community in learning how to keep their computer safe and secure (security updates, virus/spyware scans, etc).

Student Government

Improving student government via technological means could be undertaken in many ways. First and foremost it will be important to ensure student government run computers are kept up-to-date and secure.

It will be important to develop a student government website that is easy to navigate and provides a wealth of useful information for students. Student government could look into other things such as podcasting student senate meetings, providing easier means for students looking at addressing their concerns with their senators, and the entire “face” of student government as is seen by the NDSU community as well as those outside of NDSU.

Student Government Message Board

A message board could be set up that would assist the student government members in being better able to communicate.

There are approximately 70 members in student government consisting of many commissions, committees, and subcommittees. There are many things that need to be discussed and its not feasible to find a time that will work for everyone. By setting up a message board student government members could easily discuss student government related items in an easy to use format online.

Simple Machines Forum (www.simplemachines.org) could provide a great free option for student government. The software package offers an endless combination of ways that discussions could take place.

We feel that the message board would provide a great means for discussions, sharing of data, as well as communication among all members of student government. These capabilities would help student government better serve the students of NDSU.

The above is just a general list of some of the ideas/projects that may be undertaken by the 2007-2008 NDSU Student Government Technology Commission. If you have any comments, questions, or ideas please share them. Thanks!