STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TFAC) MEETING
Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 5:00 pm, Thorson Green Room
Meeting Notes by CeCe Rohwedder
Approved on May 10, 2011

Present: Rian Nostrum, Chair; Andy Bristow, Anne Denton, Gary Fisher, Jim Hammond, Jarrett Hart, Abram Jackson, Tanya Kramer, Tyrell Martin, Galen Mayfield, Chris Nelson, DK Yoon, CeCe Rohwedder
Absent: Shannon Kempenich, Karan Mittal, David Wittrock

Rian called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

Action Plans #1101 [Purchase an Overhead Scanner for the NDSU Libraries Digitization Projects] and #1102 [Spectrum Digitization (1896-1950)]

Motion (Fisher/Jackson) to remove #1101 and #1102 from consideration based on the Blackboard discussion comments by primary reviewer Denton.
Discussion re #1101: action plan #1015, of which #1101 is a duplicate, was withdrawn by Libraries Dean Reid; TFAC may not have been notified of the withdrawal at the time. However, Jeremy Brown, who submitted #1015, has left NDSU and has not been replaced, so it would be best for the Library to resubmit #1101 after someone authorized to work with the project has been hired.
Discussion re #1102: the volume of material prohibits scanning post-1950 documents, and the Library’s hope is that NDSU will process those. The Library plans to hire someone from IT to help with the transfer of files; Michael Robinson implied that the Library has the funds to support this next year.
Vote on the motion to remove #1101 and #1102 from consideration: MSC (1 against).

Action Plans #1103 [Commodity Trading Room Technology Support] and #1107 [NDSU Downtown Campus Computer Cluster in Barry Hall]

Motion (Hammond/Jackson) to not fund Action Plans #1103 and #1107.
Discussion re #1103: primary reviewer Mayfield met with Project Director (PD) Wilson and learned that a room in Barry Hall is called “computer classroom” and is considered separate from a computer cluster. The primary purpose of the proposal is to use a separate space as a trading room, similar to what Mayfield has seen used at the University of Maryland. There are companies that match university funds that would cover ongoing expenses and licenses, and PD Wilson has obtained such commitments from industries that want NDSU to better prepare students who may be future employees of those industries. Mayfield suggested that #1103 and #1107 be treated separately.

Motion (Jackson/Martin) to fund #1103 in full.
Additional discussion re #1103: the project would provide students in the College of Business with good experience; however, the Commodity Room was supposed to be established in Barry Hall when the building was remodeled, and since that did not happen, in order to make it happen we
are using Student Technology Fee funds, which means we are taking money from all NDSU students, even though only students from three colleges will benefit from the project. 

**Vote on the motion to fund #1103 in full: MSC unanimously.**

**Motion (Jackson/Hammond) to remove #1107 from consideration to fund.**

**Discussion re #1107:** there is a concern about recurring costs with the ITS budget as stretched as it is. Unit Head Tim Peterson indicated that he felt the Legacy Group (a student organization) is what drives this proposal. There is uncertainty in whether all the appropriate IT staff were consulted when the proposal was prepared; Melissa Stotz, ITS Classroom Technology Manager, has concerns about ongoing support. There is also a concern about whether the computer cluster would be a functioning computer lab at the funding level proposed in the action plan. 

**Vote on the motion to remove #1107 from consideration to fund: MSC unanimously.**

**Action Plan #1110 [Computational Modeling of Molecules and Solids]**

**Motion (Nelson/Bristow) to not approve funding for Action Plan #1110.**

**Discussion re #1110:** In speaking with PM Kilina, Primary Reviewer Nelson's impression was that this program would be used only for chemistry, at most only for science, so he feels it should be a department cost. PM Kilina stated that NDSU does not currently have this type of software, so our students cannot do computational modeling. Though the PM indicated the software would be used by about 1,200 students, she wants to install the software on all campus computers, as that would make upgrades cheaper via the oversight license that would upgrade all the machines carrying the software. Britt McAlister, Principal Engineer for Special Projects, ECI, IT, was consulted and indicated that apart from the cost of the software licenses themselves, the additional cost of imaging would be inconsequential; also, having the specialized software in all the computer labs would be a better use of NDSU funds, as the computer labs get refreshed and are maintained routinely across the board by IT, not by specific departments. The $3,000 training fee included in the Action Plan would probably be for IT staff so they can conduct maintenance; the PM feels the software is user-friendly enough so that users will not need training. It was noted that there are a lot of precedents where use of specific computers carries course fees for the users. 

**Vote on the motion to not approve funding for Action Plan #1110: MSC (1 against).**

**Action Plan #1104 [Lighting Control Console and Intelligent Fixture Upgrade]**

**Motion (Fisher/Hammond) to fund Action Plan #1104 in full.**

**Discussion re #1104:** the current lighting system is really outdated (area high schools have better systems), which makes recruiting difficult, and the department does not have enough funds available for the upgrade. In addition to more successful recruitment efforts, enrollment and participation in theater productions would also benefit. The student activity fee does not fund equipment, and if it did, the Student Government would own it, making the situation challenging. This proposal calls for good use of technology, which would allow for better shows on campus, which are available to all students at a minimal fee. 

**Vote on the motion to fund Action Plan #1104 in full: MSC unanimously.**
**Action Plan #1105 [Career Spots Implementation]**

*Motion (Yoon/Nelson) to fully fund Action Plan #1105.*

Discussion re #1105: Primary Reviewer Yoon learned from PM Kumm that the Action Plan would fund the purchase of licenses for 20 video clips; the license is for three years, and every year the Career Center would assess the use and decide if they will want to renew it at the end of the three-year period using only the Career Center fee. It costs the Career Center $1,000 per minute to produce their own video clips, so this would save a lot. The source they are considering is reliable and reputable, and it is being used by many universities; linking to them is possible, but it is not an option, as they are copyrighted. The video clips are considered a time saver for students seeking career information. However, it was noted that this would be a duplication of a current fee of $13 per semester paid to the Career Center; furthermore, this fee is being presented for consideration for an increase. It was noted that the Action Plan calls for creating content, not using technology. It was also noted that not many students here use the Career Center. Additionally, similar videos are available on YouTube and show no hits, so it is apparent that no one is watching them. The consensus was that interested NDSU students would more likely go to the Career Center in person, instead of watching a video on its web site.

*Vote on the motion to fully fund Action Plan #1105: MSD (1 against).*

**Action Plan #1109 [Instant Mobile Information through iPads]**

*Motion (Nelson/Martin) to fully fund Action Plan #1109.*

Discussion re #1109: though the 20 iPads to be purchased under this Action Plan is not a lot for a campus this size, it is sufficient for a pilot project. According to the Action Plan, NDSU IT would only be involved if the Library has difficulties restoring the iPads when returned after each use. Security certificates would need to be loaded on each device in order for it to work on campus. Rentals on e-textbooks are higher than purchases (and ultimately, e-textbooks are not much cheaper than hard copies), so there are not many e-textbooks available, and if there is no publisher support, the pilot will not work for this type of use. There is a concern of whether the pilot’s requisites can be fulfilled by the present volume of publishers, but a point was made that this project would actually push publishers to provide more digital textbooks. Additionally, the short rental time of the iPads are not conducive to use of e-textbooks: iPads are good for consuming media information but not for producing material. Abram indicated that the PM is considering submitting an e-book, e-textbook Action Plan in the future; he had actually considered doing so himself but could not find a department with enough publishers to make the project work. People on campus do not check out laptops much anymore, because they are too slow. There was a question of how success of the pilot will be measured. Though there are limited e-textbooks available, there are lots of research sources available in electronic format, so the iPad would be helpful in that regard. This project does support and promote use of new technology.

*Motion with no objection (Jackson) and approved by Nelson and Martin, to amend the motion to fully fund Action Plan #1109 as long as there is a workable system in place to comply with NDSU security policies. MSC (1 against; Denton, Hammond abstained).*
Action Plan #1106 [BIN Broadcast Remote System]

Motion (Jackson/Nelson) to fund Action Plan #1106 in full.
Discussion re #1106: this system would allow BIN camera technicians to go on location and broadcast from there, mixing all the cameras live. There are plans to offer a course on remote production, utilizing the new equipment. The concern is that the equipment would need to always be transported, which carries the risk of damage. Also, the new equipment is not instrumental to the BIN's success. However, this is good experience for the students in the program, and the new capabilities will benefit all NDSU students and put NDSU in a good light with the community. Additionally, the PM indicated that with the remote system, BIN can broadcast more campus events – they've been having to turn down requests for such because they do not have time for manual editing.

Vote on the motion to fund Action Plan #1106: MSC unanimously.

Action Plan #1108 [Text Message Polling]

Motion (Kramer/Nelson) to fully fund Action Plan #1108.
Discussion re #1108: This is a trial run, to see if there is good student response. The Spectrum will give free space to advertise, and the Memorial Union does not charge much to rent the monitors. This system has been used in class, too, with positive results; however, it is not known if students will use it outside of class, which speaks for the need to conduct a trial. One of the companies being considered tracks responses and does not allow multiple votes from a given phone number. The Wellness Center is using a similar system at no charge, however, there is a cost to have responses collected and tabulated.

Vote on the motion to fully fund Action Plan #1108: MSC (Bristow abstained).

Motion (Fisher/Nelson) to adjourn the meeting: MSC. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.