

TechComm discusses Tech Master Plan

By TSETEN DOLKAR
Staff writer

The Technology Committee (TechComm) made further steps toward fulfilling the Technology Master Plan (TMP) at its meeting Tuesday.

The TMP "incorporates the Title III goals and objectives, which are also part of the College's strategic plan."

The TMP was approved by the committee during fall of 2007.

In addition, new Chief Technology Officer Bruce Griffin was introduced at the meeting.

TechComm members questioned him on

tech issues at Ohlone, many questions to which Griffin, who took the position in January, replied that he would research in depth and get back to the committee later.

Ohlone's Board of Trustees voted to outsource the IT Department last November.

Among the items discussed was the replacement of old computers.

Some faculty members are using old Hewlett Packards and some are using Macs.

To balance support and administration, if everyone had the same system, the support process could be easier.

However, Vice President of Academic Affairs Jim Wright said that there is only a bal-

ance of \$25,000 for new faculty members.

The committee wants to put together a plan where money is not the issue but rather, when and if the money is available, the plan can be successfully put into action.

Nursing Professor and TechComm member Deb Parziale explored the possibility of separation between the IT and the educational in the TMP.

Parziale also suggested the usefulness of a separate committee that would process the faculty's input and feedback before they head over to the IT department.

Vice President of Administrative Services Mike Calegari will be now in charge of the IT department and therefore will be joining

the TechComm.

English instructor Rakesh Swamy brought up the issue of teachers commuting between the Fremont and Newark campuses who are having problems accessing docking stations that don't have an optical drive and possible solutions to the problem.

The committee welcomes Ohlone students and faculty to its meetings, which are held every third Tuesday of the month in Room 1407 from 2 to 3 p.m. Minutes from the meetings are available online at <http://dev2.ohlone.edu/people2/joconnell/tech>.

Students and faculty can also voice their issues and concerns on the TechComm blog at www.techatohlone.blogspot.com.

Nursing scholarship

Washington Hospital is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an Ohlone nursing student.

In total, the Washington Hospital Medical Staff is offering seven scholarships to students living within the Washington Township Hospital District working toward a degree in the health sciences.

Applicants are asked to provide school records, income tax information and three letters of reference, two of them from teachers.

Applications are available online at www.whhs.com/community/scholarships.htm. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 14, 2008 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (510) 791-3446.

Clicker intrigue

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opposed to 35—of used clickers. However, they will come with a one-year warranty.

If the department owned the clickers, it would be up to them—not cash-strapped students—to maintain and replace the units. The clickers retail new at the Ohlone bookstore for \$52.75.

Adjunct Physics Instructor Lowell Hazelton and Adjunct Math Instructor Terry Maguire both had access to the clickers last year for four weeks, to favorable results. (This writer was in one of Maguire's classes at the time, and liked the devices, finding no fault with them).

Students gave the clickers mixed reviews. ASOC Treasurer Kevin Felciano said in an e-mail, "I bought them once for two of my classes and never used them." Senator Tina Sayadi recalled clickers as being often inaccurate; in her class, quiz results collected using the clickers often revealed totals that added up to more than 100 percent.

A website about the clickers by Ohio State University, lists some advantages of the clickers, "Facilitate discussion by polling students' opinions and discussing the reasons for their opinions,

collect immediate feedback about students' understanding of lecture topics so confusion can be addressed quickly, allow students to share, discuss, and change their opinions before answering a question, collect data on course topics or learning preferences throughout the cycle of a course, decrease grading time by using clickers to collect student answers to quizzes and exams [and] record attendance in large lecture courses."

Furthermore, the clickers are said to facilitate more active learning in large classes and allow for anonymous expression of answers. This helps deter students from just raising their hands in union with the apparent most "popular" answer and, with regard to personal questions, provides privacy.

Nicolls was careful to point out that she would respect whatever decision the ASOC would come to, that at her proposing the purchase of clickers to the ASOC council the council was very polite and had good questions and that she was very grateful to the ASOC for their various and multitudinous sponsoring of science-oriented events at Ohlone, from Brown Bag seminars to stipends for speakers to food at events, etc.

10 join ASOC

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Newark Ohlone Campus (NOC). The arguments for the new device are for the convenience of the NOC students and to lessen the number of NOC students coming to the Fremont campus to get a student ID.

Trigg shopped around for prices on the device until she felt she had the best deal. The device consists of a database system, integration software, a video camera, a card printer, a cleaning kit and a ribbon on which the cards will be printed. The ASOC will vote on the matter next week.

In closing, Hamady also brought up her plans for an Ohlone College open house event. The event will display the various programs that Ohlone offers and is scheduled to take place on March 18 and 19. Hamady plans to have the open house offer food to visitors and a DJ for music. The ASOC will vote on this event proposal next week, as well.

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