



TechComm seeks to isolate IT budget sources

By **KYLE STEPHENS**
Staff writer

Recently hired Information and Technology Coordinator Bruce Griffin will redraft Ohlone's Technology Master Plan (TMP) within the next few weeks and "hopefully" less than a month, according to Griffin.

At the TechComm meeting Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Room 1407, proposed TMP plans included isolating tentative budget sources for various programs.

This is an funding-independent plan, discussing simply where the money will come from.

The sources include the Title III Grant Language Instruction for Limited English Proficiency and Immigrant Students, the IT Budget, the "Other Campus Budget," No Impact goals (goals without monetary cost, such as continuing

ongoing efforts and writing policy) and Bond money.

Currently, the inventory of school equipment is being updated and compared manually to the previous, not entirely accurate list. The new inventory is to include computer accessories such as printers and monitors. Inventory is being recorded via Datatel database software.

In order to expedite the inventory-gathering process, one possibility suggests that faculty describe their machines to the IT department via email. The exact data-gathering method, however, is still under consideration.

In addition to the inventory is the implementation of a rating system for computers, in order to assess their value to the school. The rating system is based on various specifications, namely processor speed, RAM, purchase date and hard drive size. Each characteristic

carries a different weight; the exact values are being discussed.

Some staff and faculty members proposed having ratings accounting for teachers' needs - as a machine ill-suited for one may be perfect for another.

Some gray areas, like Macintosh users running Windows operating systems, are cause for classification issues.

The rating system would also be beneficial for budgeting purposes, as it is funding-independent. When it comes to computer replacement, the machines most in need of such would be easily identified.

Regarding replacement, Ohlone at present lacks computers powerful enough to run Microsoft Office 2007.

The TMP aims to keep on top of the latest technology but, at present, is unable to do so in this respect.

The purchasing of equipment is

an important issue, as a machine should be optimized for its given purpose. Faculty and staff should not have equipment under- or over-powered for their needs, as it is an efficiency-sapping mismanagement of resources.

The decision of what a given staff of faculty member requires may fall mostly to the individual, to "self-identify" their specific needs or to seek the advice of a knowledgeable technology representative.

Additionally, the meeting touched on the need for Ohlone's computer labs to have the same equipment and software.

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