

Technology Advisory Board (TAB) Minutes of Meeting of October 18, 2000

Location: 4th Floor Conference Room, Andy Holt Tower
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Members: Eric Beaty, Brooks Brown, Allen Cain, Will Carver, Chris Cimino, Jim Gehlhar, Ray Hamilton, Nathan Hammer, Susan Metros, Joshua D. Morrison, Jim Schwab, Matthew Thigpen.

Others: Julie Little, Robin McNeil, Nancy Gnilka, Rhonda Spearman, Allen Taylor, Judy Travis.

In Faye Muly's absence, Will Carver, Co-Chair, opened the meeting. He circulated a sheet for those interested in serving on either the Budget Committee or Wireless Committee. It is desired to have students, faculty and staff on each of the committees.

This month's meeting was devoted to a presentation on the CourseInfo/ Enterprise system. The Innovative Technology Center is leading the effort in implementing an Academic portal system at the University of Tennessee. Rhonda Spearman, Manager of the CourseInfo/Enterprise Systems Team, presented an overview of this project. An academic portal is defined as an online system that provides a user with a personalized snapshot view of his or her university life, including courses, clubs or organizations, financial transactions, and other academic information. Portal systems should help users become more connected, more collaborative, more responsive, and more productive within their institution. The system selected to meet these requirements was Blackboard 5 Level Three, an e-Learning software platform encompassing a course management system, customizable institution-wide portals, online campus communities, and an advanced architecture allowing easy integration of multiple administrative systems.

Among the benefits of an academic portal system discussed were the ability for faculty members to have daily updates of course rosters during the drop-add period, student access to online course syllabi for "course shopping," immediate access to course sites at the beginning of the semester, access to related online University resources, and the ability to provide student, faculty, and staff organizations their own interactive community sites.

The Innovative Technology Center is working closely with the Registrar's Office, UT Libraries, UT Bookstore, the Division of Information Infrastructure, and other key groups to launch a pilot of the portal during 2001 with select colleges, student groups, and institutional organizations. For more information about this project please email online@utk.edu or call 974-7912. For information on Blackboard, Inc. please visit <http://www.blackboard.com> .

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2000, at 2PM in the 4th floor Andy Holt Conference Room.

Minutes prepared by: Judy Travis