Computing Advisory Committee Meeting 03/04/2011

Attending: Dan Stover (Chair), Kemal Akkaya, Patty Cosgrove, JP Dunn (Library Affairs), Tom Harbert, Andrea Imre, Judy Marshall, John Nicklow (Enrollment Management), Mark Peterson, Jason Phillips, Jerry Richards (IT), Anita Stoner.

Absent: Kevin Bame, David Carlson, Janet Douglas, Doug Lind, Tonny Oyana.

Meeting started at 3:00 PM. Dan mentioned that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the situation with a potential upgrade to Blackboard, which is the Learning Management System (LMS) that is currently used on campus. Dan introduced John Nicklow from Enrollment Management, who was the chair of a committee investigating potential options for an LMS, JP Dunn from Library Affairs, who is the Blackboard administrator, and Jerry Richards, who is the interim Director of Systems at Information Technology.

John Nicklow started the discussion with some information about his committee and what their goals were. Basically, he indicated that he and the members of his committee were tasked with looking at potential options for replacement of the current version of Blackboard and coming up with a recommendation. John mentioned that regardless of which LMS package was finally selected, there would need to be a conversion from the previous LMS, therefore there was no particular advantage to selecting the newer version of Blackboard over any other LMS. John stated that the function of the committee was to determine as many as possible of the options available for the current set of LMSs and make a recommendation.

JP Dunn discussed the current situation with Blackboard and why we need to upgrade. He indicated that, once a LMS was selected, it would run in parallel with the older Blackboard system while the upgrade was being completed. JP mentioned that there might be some consulting involved to get any new LMS to contain all the features that are needed. Dan asked if this meant that there would be programming contracted from an outside source to program the LMS. JP indicated yes. Dan asked if there was a requirement for an Application Programming Interface (API) and JP said that all of the potential LMS candidates had that.

Judy Marshall then discussed the committee she is heading, which is tasked with administering the RFP process, as in preparing the initial RFP and processing the responses. She indicated that the RFP was in process and would be on the procurement web site soon. She said she would send out the link when this occurs. Judy also mentioned that she would like to have a member of the Computing Advisory Committee on the RFP committee. Anita Stoner volunteered for this task.

John Nicklow then concluded his remarks by saying that the recommendation of his committee was that a product called "Desire 2 Learn" is the product that most closely matches the needs of the university. He stressed that this is a preliminary analysis and did not bind SIU into choosing this product over others. He said the RFP process will determine what products are eventually considered but this

preliminary analysis was needed to determine what features were available and could be part of the requirements set forth in the RFP. John and JP then left as the committee moved on to other topics.

Jerry talked about virtualization, mentioning that server-based virtualization was the only option that was being used so far, in terms of virtualizing server-based products such as Exchange Server. Dan discussed desktop virtualization a bit and Jerry mentioned that other virtualization options were being considered.

Anita Stoner suggested that we have a meeting to discuss the web standards currently being using on this campus.

Meeting was over at 4:30 PM.