

**Information Technology Council**  
Humboldt State University

Meeting Notes for: August 9, 2005 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.  
SBS 405

Members Present: Mark Hendricks, David Pearson (as proxy for Joan Van Duzer), Ben Curran, Todd Stone, Jeanne Wielgus, Bethany Gildea (as proxy for Pat Collins), Tera Mar, Mike Bradley, Katharine Granfield, Gary Noar, Toby Walker, Megan McKenzie, Tome Mendenhall (as proxy for Jeremy Shellhase)

Others Present: Cassandra Tex (SDRC), Rick Garcia (Manager, TNS), RJ Wilson (Manager, AC), Bill Cannon (Director, ITS), Riley Quarles (Manager, IMS), Michael Penney (IMS), Melinda Christensen (Help Desk), Dave Marshall (CNRS), Dave Mendenhall (Library), Nick DeRuyter (Manager, UCS), Josh Callahan (UCS), Molly Simpson (Recorder)

**1. Approval of the Minutes:**

Minutes for the May 2005 meeting were approved as amended.  
Minutes for the June 2005 meeting were approved as distributed.  
No July 2005 Meeting – summer break

**2. Report Items:**

**Moodle:** Penney updated the Council on the integration of Moodle with the Campus IT systems. He noted that he has been working with Hendricks to integrate Moodle with CMS through LDAP. This will allow students to access Moodle resources within minutes of registering in the class. He also noted there is a proposal for LDAP authentication and plans for integration between Moodle Grade-Book and Banner. Penney distributed a document on Moodle Enterprise integration with Campus IT systems detailing the progress. Quarles noted this makes Moodle a more valuable tool than blackboard because of the specialized features tailored to the campus. Quarles noted that the Moodle customizations make it more valuable and user friendly than Blackboard.

**Overview of System-wide Security Initiatives:** Cannon updated the Council on ITAC and other Chancellor's Office work in progress and distributed documentation of the highlights (attached). He noted that a System-wide Security Program was being developed and that a consultant will be retained to assist with documentation and legalities. He stated that there would most likely be a security awareness course on-line for faculty and staff. The emphasis will be on desktop security.

### 3. **Discussion/Action Items:**

**Science A 364:** Wilson reported on the Science A 364 upgrade. Currently the lab offers a dual platform (mac/win). The Windows OS is not functioning well on the Mac hardware. He stated that the lab will need to be changed to either a Mac platform or a Windows platform. To determine which platform is preferred by those using the lab, he conducted a survey of those geographically close to the lab. The results were 60/40 in favor of the Windows platform. Wilson noted that he planned to meet with faculty members regarding their platform preference as well.

**ITS Removal of Support for Legacy Operating Systems:** Bradley reported that ITS is currently working on the implementation of a secure communications and authentication infrastructure. He stated that ITS is considering discontinuation of support for operating systems that are no longer officially supported by the vendor. Included in this list are: Apple Mac OS 9 and below, Microsoft Windows NT, Windows ME, Windows 98, Windows 95, and legacy browsers or email clients that do not meet current security standards. ITS requested that all areas consider the impact of these changes and submit a list of considerations at the next meeting. Discussion ensued. Cannon noted that ITS would work on creating a detailed de-support list and get it out to the ITCs. Hendricks noted that Christensen had been working on documentation and that UCS had employed a 30-day hire to help out with documentation. Support for legacy systems is scheduled to end sometime during the winter of 2005-2006 academic year. Hendricks told the Council that the main point of this agenda item was to solicit input from Council members in order to determine whether or not this is a reasonable request.

### 4. **Announcements/New Business:**

**TNS Updates and Announcements:** Curran reported that TNS had purchased Middleware called "Campus Manager." Campus Manager is a security management application that allows TNS to manage workstations and place them in isolated VLANs if they are not up-to-date. Additionally, the application conducts registry based scans and port scans. Curran noted that TNS would like to arrange for a demonstration by the vendor for any interested ITCs and others. The Council indicated high interest in having an on-campus demonstration. Curran stated that after the demonstration, discussions should begin regarding what levels of enforcement to use with the campus network and what levels of functionality will be required with the application. Curran noted that the new application is interoperable with Kerberos, Active Directory, LDAP, and Radius. Hendricks noted that it will have authentication implications and should be reviewed by the Active Directory Working Group. Curran noted that Bradford Network (the vendor) would be coming to campus to install the beta mode of the application sometime in August. Curran also noted that the application may be deployed differently for ResNET. Garcia stated that the one of the primary functions of the application is patch management. Cannon noted that the biggest security hit the network takes every year is when the ResNet students return to campus after having their

unprotected machines at home. This application will be the first line of defense against the hits we take this time of year.

**TIS Update:** Garcia reported that he had signed off on the final documents for stage II. TNS will now enter the next phase of the project. They will begin by cutting over a couple of pilot departments first to get any issues resolved. Low bandwidth areas will be cut-over first. Garcia also noted that the CAI project which will give a secondary connection on the network will begin September 20<sup>th</sup>. Higher bandwidth users will be cut over around this same date. Cannon clarified that there would be two connections to the internet. The primary connection would be provided by the CAI project. The secondary will be the 155 Mb connection that the campus currently utilizes. This configuration will not provide full geographical redundancy; however it will relieve some of the capacity concerns that the campus has had. Garcia noted that the TNS website would be updated soon and will provide the status of on-going projects. Garcia also announced that the bottom floor (lobby) of the SBS building now has wireless access as well as the area just outside of the building. Garcia told the Council that a wireless access point for check out will be offered as a new service in a couple of months. The cost for this new service is yet to be determined.

**UCS Projects Update:** Callahan reviewed UCS projects and distributed a draft schedule:

- 8/15 Password Synchronization/Management goes into production
- 9/4 Alpha Server Maintenance: system downtime for most of the day.
- 9/10 MeetingMaker Upgrade: new features, improved support for OSX and portable devices – no support for OS9.
- 10/1 SSL required for POP/IMAP/SMTP: Security

Also on-going through Fall 2005: Telnet/FTP to SSH conversion, Roll-out of HSU Certificate Authority trusts for SSL, and Active Directory Testing (CNRS and other locations).

**Authentication Update:** Hendricks told the Council that the password synchronization interface and the group management interface being deployed by UCS were the first big steps towards a centralized authentication infrastructure on campus. Hendricks started the password synchronization interface would set a user's password on Axe, Sorrel, Redwood, LDAP, Kerberos, and Active Directory. This means that all central systems and most centrally offered services would use the same user Net ID and password. Hendricks noted that UCS had contacted a Public Affairs firm to get help determining a name for the centralized authentication system. One suggestion was "axe handle". Hendricks noted that he would send an email to the Council members requesting input regarding the net ID name. Hendricks told the Council that there is now a test interface for the Banner password management available now, but not yet in production. Hendricks noted that people will most likely use the old method (server website) to change passwords and that UCS will have good documentation before rolling this out to the entire campus. Hendricks told the Council that Christensen is continuing to work on the documentation. Gilden reported on the CNRS Active Directory testing, noting that two of the main labs were already up and running with three

more labs ready by mid-term. An account had been created that would start in the “kiosk” mode to allow users to set or change their password. She also noted plans to move CNRS faculty and staff to Active Directory in the near future. Hendricks asked that anyone interested in participating in the Active Directory testing to contact him. Wilson noted that Academic Computing will be testing Active Directory in their labs soon.

**Outstanding Professional Award:** Quarles announced that Penney will be giving a presentation on Moodle in GH 215 on Friday, August 12, 2005. Quarles also announced that Penney had been awarded the Outstanding Professional Award for his contributions to Academics for his work with Moodle. Quarles told the Council he would send information regarding the award reception to the IT list serve.

**5. Adjournment:** 3:20 P.M. (Bradley/Stone)

Following the Council meeting, Edge Wireless gave a presentation on the new campus contract. Interested parties were invited to stay