



eLearning Governance Group

1.00p.m. – 2.00p.m.
Thursday 14th September 2006
Main Quad Meeting Room

Membership:

Prof. Judyth Sachs (Chair), Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)	Dr Nerida Jarkey, CHASS Academic Director, ICT in T&L
Dr Chris Bird, Director ICT Strategic Development and Planning	Mr Robert Mackinnon Chief Information Officer
Assoc Prof Rob Ellis, Director eLearning	Assoc Prof Mary Peat, CST Academic Director, ICT in T&L
Ms Anne Forster, Manager Special Projects	Assoc Prof Chris Roberts, Director Centre for Innovation in Professional Health Education and Research
Assoc Prof Mark Freeman, Director Office of Learning and Teaching in Economics and Business	Mr John Shipp University Librarian
Ms Su Hanfling, Director Sciences and Technology Libraries	Assoc Prof Bruce Sutton Chair Academic Board

Apologies:

Assoc Prof Rob Ellis
Ms Anne Forster
Mr Robert Mackinnon
Assoc Prof Mary Peat
Assoc Prof Bruce Sutton

In Attendance:

Assoc Prof Peter McCallum, representing the Academic Board
Mr Harry Swanenberg, Director of Infrastructure, ICT

Minutes

1. Report on Wireless Access across the Campus and prioritising extension to the current network

Mr Harry Swanenberg reported that currently there are 200 wireless access points and there is research underway (due to report October 2006) to determine the footprint of access. The goal is to 100% coverage. It has been found that building materials significantly affects the range and effectiveness of wireless e.g. sandstone is an inhibitor. He also reported that the University is moving to a new standard for authentication encryption that no longer requires the use of VPN client software.

The 2006 Budget funded the establishment of an additional 60 wireless access points. To date 7 of these have been allocated (3 in Economics and Business

and 4 at Cumberland). ICT used to liaise with the Federation of I.T. Providers (Fed ITP) to ensure an appropriate roll-out plan for wireless. However, the Fed ITP has been disbanded and there is a need for a body to prioritise extension of the network. Harry to liaise with Chris Roberts, Nerida Jarkey and Mary Peat to prioritise 2006-2007 roll-out and to bring Roll-Out Plan back to the next meeting of the Governance Group. **Adopted**

Discussion then ranged across student-owned devices and student access, network access costs, printing, security, power outlets to charge batteries, copyright and signage – ‘This is a wireless area’. Mark underlined the urgency for the University to develop a method to subsidise student access to (handheld) computers and a wireless network – International accreditation and benchmarking is requiring this. Economics and Business have developed an online survey to determine student requirements. Mark to send this to Harry to amend as required and to bring back to the next meeting of the Governance Group. **Adopted**

Prof Sachs invited Mr Harry Swanenberg to become a member of the eLearning Governance Group.

2. WebCT Upgrade

Prof Sachs reported that the contract for WebCT is for 3 years.

Chris reported that Contract negotiations have stalled on 2 points, but should be complete within two weeks. This version of WebCT has an additional module for Learning Object Management. There is a need to ensure that this module does not duplicate or be incompatible with existing standards and procedures; it also must be accessible to Blackboard users. There need to be a meeting with Chris Bird, Stephen Sheely, Su Hanfling and Mark Freeman to ensure all University requirements can be met by the purchase of this module.

Adopted

3. Any other business

Chris reported that there has been a budget bid for around \$260,000 for Learning and Teaching ICT projects in the 2007 Budget. There is a need for a strategic approach to commit this money.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the eLearning Governance Group is scheduled for Thursday 23rd November from 1.00-2.00p.m. in the Main Quad Meeting Room.

A light lunch will be provided.