

## Faculty Advisory Committee on Educational Technology (FACET)

### Purpose - Technology in education

### Chair - Gerry Oxford, Ph.D.

#### Members

Carol Tresolini  
Howard Reisner  
Dennis Schmidt  
Eve Juliano  
Barry Pallotta  
Alfred Reid  
Robert Berger  
Steve Downs  
Carol Jenkins  
Margaret Moore  
Mike Keller  
Tony Kane  
Ian Buchanan  
Ben Seo  
Wendy Hunter

### Meeting - Monthly Thursdays from 11/00

### Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) Requirement

#### Progress

PDA's (Personal Digital Assistants) have been proliferating in the medical environment and have proven useful for documenting patient encounters, medical calculations, and as repositories for diagnostic and therapeutic information. Both student interest and ubiquity of PDA's in the clinical environment prompted FACET to consider requiring them for medical students. FACET explored this issue and issued the following suggested requirement:

1. All 3rd and 4th year students will be required to have a PDA using the Palm OS. The only unit supported by the School will be the Palm Pilot IIIxe
2. An increase in student financial aid was approved to support the requirement.
3. OIS will receive incremental funding to aid the support of this requirement.

The requirement will begin in 2001-2002.

#### Plans

Issues that remain to be considered regarding the PDA requirement include:

1. The sources for OIS budgetary increases to support the requirement.
2. Continued evaluation, approval, and recommendation of software.
3. Mechanisms for evaluating the usefulness of PDA's and their relative value in the technology landscape (e.g. evolution of capabilities relative to laptop computers)
4. When and if 1st and 2nd year students should be encouraged/required to obtain PDA's.

### Web Based Case Software

#### Progress

Several of the clinical clerkships have been interested or engaged in developing web-based case scenarios for clinical training/exercise of medical students. The technology to support such efforts is evolving rapidly and both the University and several Health Affairs schools have been evaluating and changing development platforms for such applications.

FACET reviewed Blackboard, WebCT, CASUS ProMediweb, DxR, and locally designed options. We recommended adoption of DxR as the platform for the development of such cases. It is ideally suited to the task for the curriculum in the 3rd and 4th years and can be modified for possible use during the basic science years as well. There are a number of complete cases in various specialties already implemented for purchase and the per case cost of \$1K was considered a bargain factoring in faculty time for development.

**Plans**

Regarding case-based web-authoring tools, FACET plans to:

1. Promote monitoring the use and effectiveness of these cases
2. Explore possibilities for using a DxR "Light" version in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses.
3. Monitor support requirements that may arise with increased implementation.

**Student Technology Fees**

**Progress**

Each year, the School of Medicine receives a fraction of the Student Technology Fee paid by each student in the SOM. These funds are to be applied to the purchase and/or support of information technology benefiting the student population. This population includes not only medical students, but also allied health and graduate students.

A proposal for implementing wireless access points and purchasing wireless PC cards for student laptop use was considered. It was decided that while the technology was ready, the educational uses were both questionable. Furthermore, the potential for disturbing the educational environment in Berryhill Hall by the availability of internet access during lectures was deemed highly undesirable. This proposal was rejected.

We recommended spending the majority of these funds to support the purchase of extra DxR cases for medical students and the purchase of portable LCD projectors for several graduate and allied health programs.

**Plans**

Next year FACET will:

1. Develop policies and procedures for proposals for the expenditure of Student Technology Fees each year.
2. Develop a "wish list" to serve as a proactive group of uses.

**Results**

**Issues**

Two issues need consideration:

1. Sources of funding for OIS support of all technological initiatives approved by the CMC.
2. Discussion of the role of departments in supporting (both financial and policy) evolution of approved technologies in their courses.