

NOTES FROM THE FACET MEETING

Thursday, February 13, 200, at 4:00 PM in 303 Berryhill

Members present: Reid (Co-Chair), Minchew (Co-Chair) McCartney, Keller, McLendon, Reisner, Schmidt, Sonis, Tresolini, Chi-Tsai Tang

Updates

1. **Closing of 201 Berryhill Computer Lab:** Dennis Schmidt (OIS) briefed the committee on the closing of the lab. He stated that in the past OIS had used educational technology fees to support the lab, but the next fiscal year those fees will be blended into the OIS budget and will be used for student support. The bottom line is that there are no funds to maintain this lab. He reported that the laptops are over four years old and a lot of money is being spent to maintain them. Also, batteries and PCMCIA cards are being stolen. Plans are to continue to support the MED students and keep those machines that are working, but as they malfunction, they won't be repaired. Mike Keller listed the groups that use the lab and said that they presently use swipe cards to enter. There was a question about leaving the network connections in place and Mr. Schmidt responded that plans are to leave them. Mr. Keller said that the lab was originally equipped by the medical alumni and thought they should be informed. Dr. McCartney suggested that Eve Juliano communicate with the medical alumni office.
2. **Administrative Issues:** (1) FACET website. Alfred Reid (FamMed) reported that he has been maintaining the website using "Word" and Internet Explorer and will continue using these. Dr. McCartney reminded the group that FACET is now linked to the main medical curriculum webpage. (2) Meeting Schedule: Mr. Reid said that the last two FACET meetings had been off schedule, but starting in March the meetings would meet the first Thursday of each month from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.

Virtual Microscopy

Howard Reisner (Path) said that the main question is what steps do we have to take before a decision is made. This is a significant investment. Mr. Reid commented that this decision also depended on budgetary considerations for this fiscal year or next. Dr. McCartney said that Dr. Bankaitis had expressed a desire to have the technology in place by the spring semester of next year. Dr. McCartney gave an overview of her understanding of options: 1) Pay a certain amount of money to a vendor and have that vendor produce slides; or 2) Purchase the hardware and software and hire a technical support staff member to produce slides or 3) use Iowa State University's free technology to have slides produced. There are certain advantages to having our own collection such as use for case development. Dr. McCartney said that she needed feedback about which method and which hardware and software is desirable if we purchase our own technology. She understood that the initial investment for the technology would be around \$70,000, and \$10,000 each year to maintain. She said that that the money could come from increased tuition revenue and that part of this money could be recovered by charging stakeholders a fee for producing the slides. Mr. Keller pointed out that MSTL already had an experienced histology technician who could be trained to make these slides. Dr. Reisner then explained that even if the technology were purchased, there would be another significant infrastructure investment, namely a server consistent with software to view slides. The server was estimated to cost around \$25,000- 30,000 and then a backup system would be required costing as much or more. Discussion followed regarding stakeholders and how they could use this technology to offset the huge investment. Dr. Tresolini commented that there are going to be more opportunities to use this technology, especially if classes are more integrated. Further discussion followed about how large pieces of equipment that had been shared by several departments had been funded in the past. Space for this technology was discussed. Dr. Minchew enumerated the options again and asked if the committee should choose one of the options or try to figure the costs for each option and bring back to the next meeting. It was agreed that Dr. Reisner's subcommittee would research the costs and bring back for discussion. Dr. Reisner mentioned that Aperio Technologies would be coming on February 20 and would be giving a demonstration and invited all to attend.

Other business was deferred.