Green IT (GITAG) Minutes

WEDNESDAY June 27, 2012
EV2-1001
10:30 – 11:30

Present: Carl Nagel, Chris Roth, James McCarthy, Julio Gonzalez, Kevin Rampersad, Lowell Williamson, Scott Paterson, Tim Farrell

Business Arising from Previous Meetings

Printing Position Paper
CTSC had suggestions for re-wording the document, GITAG members had no objections. Next steps: how to get the information out there—Bob Hicks agreed that IST will host a web page, this is how the matter was left with CTSC. Chris Roth volunteered to rework the page and will post it to Sharepoint for other members to view. We have approval from CTSC to make the information public. Once the content is finalized we can have a link from GITAG web site and Daily Bulletin. The ‘Tips’ section will be constantly changing so we will have a link to that section, which will be maintained on GITAG site.

Thesis Submission
Each Faculty has their own rules about whether or not paper submission of a Thesis is required. The Grad Student Office does not require paper, and archives are stored electronically. Formatting is very specific, and typographic design is very specific for font size and spacing. A ‘Green’ model would be to go with minimum requirements, and it might be possible to recommend a ‘greener’ font (i.e. that uses less toner and fits more content on a page). Serif fonts tend to be more ‘readable’. Sans serif seems to be ‘greener’ in that it uses less toner. There is considerable disagreement as to what font is ‘greener’. Another consideration is ‘kerning’ (space between letters). Eco font is not acceptable as it is too light for making an electronic copy. Also, it is now commercial (not free anymore).

Green ‘Cheat Sheet’
James has a basic outline, it needs to be filled in. The draft is on the Sharepoint site.

New Business

Connecting with the new CIO
UW has a new CIO, David Wallace. GITAG needs to determine how we can best work with him and what goals he can help us accomplish. We may wait until he has had time to ‘settle in’, then invite him to attend one of our meetings for a short time. James (or James and some subset of other GITAG members) could meet with him beforehand to give him a general idea of who we are and what we are trying to accomplish. For example, we feel that we need to encourage more participation from Upper Administration and Plant Operations. We could accomplish more if there was a general attitude of sustainability on Campus.

Next Meeting
We may try to schedule another meeting in August. If the CIO is available earlier, this may change.
Carl- World Community grid (making use of unused CPU cycles from individual computers for projects that benefit humanity). A student made a compelling presentation at STAC. The Library is participating during overnight hours. After a lively discussion it was determined that the matter should probably be taken to higher level administration, as we are not really responsible for how computers are used. More information is available at: http://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/

Lowell- received an email from a Researcher who was putting together ‘ethics’ forms. The Researcher was required to provide 18 copies in order to submit a request to the Committee. Can anything be done? These types of inefficiencies exist all over Campus. Lowell will look at the ethics situation. Investigator Tim offered to look into the issue of software licenses, which also involves considerable paperwork just to make a purchase. Sandra’s response can be discussed next meeting.

Chris- collecting old floppy disks on behalf of Gayle Goodfellow, this is for a Feds sustainability project: http://uwsp.feds.ca/ecoart/projects

Tim – Noted that ‘corporate level’ applications on Campus (e.g. HR, document management) have been focusing on reducing paper over the last few years.

Kevin – Has started consolidating smaller printers into Xerox Workstations, and they are looking at doing accounting. Many problems exist with this.