Notes from
the Navigation Sub-committee of
the UW Web Advisory Committee

December 6, 2007

Present:
Mary Lynn Benninger, Megan McDermott, Isaac Morland, Terry Stewart (chair).
Regrets:
Jason Greatrex, Sarah Forgrave, Jason Greatrex.

Thanks to Megan for these notes.

Attached are the notes I made at today's meeting. Below are some other notes I wrote up when thinking about what we'll need from this group when we start working on the new design.

Here's a good example of a top bar like we were talking about today:
http://www.unl.edu/

I think they've done a good job of keeping those top links accessible without really interfering with the rest of the page at all (in the grey area). I'm not sure I like the quick links drop-down or the cal/people/weather slide-out thing, or some of the finer points of their other navigation.

The University of Calgary is similar:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/futurestudents/
http://www.ucalgary.ca/residence/

They also have a second horizontal menu with key sections, as we discussed today.

Memorial's is similar but more substantial looking:

http://www.mun.ca/become/programs/comprehensive.php

What is needed from the Navigation Committee (rough notes)

When we begin work on the redesign we'll need to know what kind of navigation should be included.

Do we need:

- breadcrumbs?
- fly-outs?
- site map or a-z index?
- university-wide overall menu? (>> what would need to be accessible from everywhere?)
- addional local (in-site) menus? (such as the top bar we've discussed)
- additional levels of navigation? (third level)
- page layouts for navigational pages?
- any other types of navigation? (i.e. the "log in to..." menu as discussed today)

We can include a disclaimer saying that these recommendations should be weighed against technical feasibility etc.

These should be justified by some rationale - the attached document begins with the problems. I think our report should start with those problems and then suggest solutions.