University Senate Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021

Present: Ellen Mahaffy, Chip Eckardt, Kent Gerberich, Kate Kim, Jill Markgraf, Dave Nesvacil, Pedro Sottile, Eric Stevens, Bob Stow, Brett Swanson.

Chair Ellen Mahaffy called the virtual meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

1. **Approval of Minutes**
   Kent Gerberich moved to approve the April 8, 2021, minutes; Dave Nesvacil seconded. Approved unanimously.

2. **Laptop Program**
   - Chair Mahaffy attended the Senate Executive committee seeking for feedback on the mandatory laptop resolution the STC is currently working on.
     - The initial intent was to have the first reading of the resolution on the May 4th Senate meeting, with the second reading in the Fall.
     - However, the item was pulled from the University Senate agenda to have the STC further work on several concerns pointed out by senators and administrators.
     - Concern that the program would most likely be a semester fee of approximately $850
       - This could be part of students’ tuition so they might get financial aid
     - If this is a tuition add-on, then the program might need Board approval (Chancellor’s remarks)
     - Concerns over high-end computers
       - Geography, Computer Science needs
     - Concerns over departmental software programs
       - Specialty software could be an issue as can be more than $2000 per computer
     - Concerns over administrative rights and what would be allowed
       - Ability to install own software
     - Concern with International or nondegree students
       - Students staying less than a year
     - Concern over Barron County and transfer students
       - Need to mention them in resolution
     - Concern about what the students’ needs are
       - Student Senate passed by only 1 vote resolution supporting the laptop initiative. Controversial among students due to the mandatory nature of the program
       - Would there be an opt out option. Students may opt to have their own computer
       - Would almost exclusively be opt-in to balance it out
     - Concern about the cost before moving forward
   - Try to arrange another meeting with Provost Klein
     - Need to state or clarify the problems this program is solving
- Contrast with other options to show how we solve the problems

- Why the need of the laptop program
  - LTS tech support
  - LTS is interested in expanding helpdesk space
  - Equitable
  - Replace PCs in classrooms and special labs
    - Could become a concern for individual departments
    - Could be important to tell the colleges that require laptops
      - College of Nursing and College of Business

- Alternative to laptop program could be a long-term checkout program from the Library, funded by students
  - Reach out the Foundation for additional funding

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm