

## **Minutes of Student Computer Ownership (SCO) Committee Meeting on 09-Sep-2009**

**Attending:** Christos Alexopoulos, Lori Critz, Miles Edson, Jon Giffin, Andy Jones, Steve Potter, Lisa Spence, Bruce Walker

**Absent or Excused:** Nicholas Robson, Jarek Rossignac, Alex Taubman

We elected a committee chair for the 2009-2010 academic year. Christos nominated Jon, Lori seconded. No discussion or alternate nominations. Motion carried unanimously: chairperson will be Jon Giffin.

We discussed recent two recent trends in computing that were likely to impact the committee as it determined appropriate hardware and software for students. As regards hardware, netbooks had become popular purchases, sometimes in place of laptops. The committee was concerned that netbooks were underpowered, particularly since our hardware recommendations should carry students through 3 or 4 years of study. On the software side, cloud-based productivity suites such as Google Docs had become prominent.

An advantage of Google Docs over commercial software such as Microsoft Office is that Docs is free for students to use. We were concerned that cloud-based editors were significantly less powerful than Office, however, and ultimately concluded that we should offer students the use of a free non-cloud software package called OpenOffice.org.

We discussed OIT's scheduled updates to Banner in the context of the previous year's study of how to present required course software to students.

We scheduled a discussion for our next meeting re: Windows 7.

## **Minutes of Student Computer Ownership (SCO) Committee Meeting on 29-Oct-2009**

**Attending:** Christos Alexopoulos, Lori Critz, Miles Edson, Jon Giffin, Andy Jones, Steve Potter, Nicholas Robson, Lisa Spence, Alex Taubman, Bruce Walker

**Absent or Excused:** Jarek Rossignac

Lisa asked two colleagues from OIT, Victoria and Dale, to attend the meeting and brief the SCO Committee on OIT's planned support for Windows 7. Victoria was developing the OIT migration plan, which needed to be implemented before Microsoft's planned sunset of Windows XP in April 2010.

Victoria presented a chart illustrating the differing capabilities of the various versions of Windows 7. The committee concluded that Windows 7 Home Premium is sufficient for student needs while avoiding the higher costs of the professional versions.

We decided our operating system plans for the coming year. For Windows systems, we chose to recommend Windows 7 64-bit Home Premium or better, and remove recommendations for Windows XP and Windows Vista. For Mac systems, we chose to recommend Snow Leopard (10.6) as all new Mac laptops would be sold by Apple with Snow Leopard preinstalled.