Technology Committee, Vital Part of College & District Efforts!

John Weispfenning

The SCC Technology Committee is a part of a broad effort of both the College and the District to efficiently choose and deploy technology to help us provide students with a high quality education.

The Technology Committee is a committee of the Academic Senate that provides all faculty, staff, and administrators a voice in the decision-making process at SCC and RSCCD. The Committee recommends policy, helps to select software and provides feedback to the ITS staff.

As part of the broader effort on our campus, the Technology Committee also supports the work of the Faculty Development Committee (FDC) and the District’s Technology Advisory Group (TAG).

Technology Committee members routinely provide workshops and coordinate other sessions as part of the FDC’s FLEX week. Recent workshops have included:

- Introduction to Blackboard
- How to customize your Blackboard site making it user friendly
- Testing and assignments using Blackboard
- Podcasting from the start to the finish
- Podcasting PowerPoint presentations with narration
- Classroom presentations with projection systems
- How to design and publish your SCC web page
- SCC web page workshop

Representatives of the Technology Committee also serve on the District TAG, which has broad responsibility for coordinating technology at both colleges and the District Office. The relationship of the Technology Committee and TAG is particularly important in times when the budget is an issue. Keeping up with cutting edge classroom technology will be more difficult in the next few years.

In times when there are fewer dollars to spend on technology, the input of the Technology Committee can mean the difference between a wise investment that leads to enhanced student learning and a piece of software that sits on a shelf.

Faculty and staff members need to know their opinions are sought and heard by the Technology Committee.
Did you know?

Starting this semester, there is a required lab that corresponds to the Math 60 (Elementary Algebra) course. The Math 60 lab (60L) requires students to complete a minimum of nine hours in SCC’s MaSH (Math Study Hall) by the end of the 16-week semester. During these nine hours, students will have the opportunity to receive tutoring from math teachers, instructional assistants and student tutors. Another benefit of MaSH is the availability of the educational software called “PLATO,” which is available on all 30 computers. PLATO is currently used throughout the campus in subjects such as English, History, Communications and ACE. Math 60 students will be able to review, learn and understand concepts they struggled with in previous classes.

The Math Department selected the software PLATO for several reasons. First and foremost, PLATO teaches lower level mathematical topics at an adult level. This software package also encourages the learner to study at an individual level and pace. It has short 15-minute lessons, application problems and mastery tests to assist students in learning specific math topics. PLATO also generates reports, which allow instructors to track the number of practice hours and mastery tests students have completed. The Math Department anticipates using PLATO concurrently with Math 60 and expects student success rates for Algebra students will increase.

As part of last year’s budget process, several departments requested media be added to several specific classrooms. Funding was approved to mediate 13 requested classrooms with: a Nova Instructor station with glass top, a DVD/VHS combination playback unit, a new computer, a new projector, ceiling mounted speakers and a document camera to display content, such as a news article placed under the camera to be projected onto the screen. If the original item is in color then it will be displayed in color. How cool is that? Transparencies can be used with the camera, too.

During the 2007-08 academic year, the college mediated a total of ten classrooms; so in two years, 23 classrooms will have been mediated. How great is that? Back in spring 2006, the college identified 33 classrooms that had no mediation; and now after these past two years, there are only ten non-mediated classrooms remaining. There are nine classrooms that have projectors but do not have the necessary audio visual equipment to be considered a fully mediated classroom.

The SCC Technology Plan estimates the service life of a projector to be six years; and in the past two years, 27 new projectors have been purchased to replace end-of-life projectors. Along with new computers, about ten of the replacement projectors went to upgrade the AV carts, which Media delivers when requested.

The 13 classrooms being upgraded this semester are listed below, and our plan is to have them ready for spring 2009.

◊ A-building classrooms:
  A105, A106, A107
◊ B-building classrooms:
  B209, B210, B211, B212
◊ U-building classrooms:
  U086, U094, U097, U098, U103, U104

In the past two years, the college has accomplished much progress toward mediating its classrooms that assist instructors with their delivery of material to enhance student learning.

SCC Classroom Mediation

Curt Childress

Using PLATO in MaSH!

Darlene Ornelas

SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - Technology News
Meetup - Network of Local Groups

Scot Trodick

Meetup.com (or Meetup) is an online social networking portal that facilitates offline group meetings in various localities around the world. Meetup allows members to find and join groups that are unified by a common interest, such as politics, books, games, movies, health, pets, careers or hobbies. Users just enter their ZIP code (or city outside the US) and the topic they would like to discuss when they meet, and the website helps them arrange a place and a time to meet.

Meetup is the world’s largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. More than 2,000 groups get together in local communities each day, each one with the goal of improving themselves or their communities.

Meetup’s mission is to revitalize local community and help people around the world self-organize. Meetup believes people can change their personal world, or the whole world, by organizing themselves into groups that are powerful enough to make a difference.

I use Meetup to promote both my Internet Special Interest Group (http://web.meetup.com/130/) and my Adobe Photoshop User Group (http://photoshop.meetup.com/258/). Meetup has become an invaluable tool in staying organized and getting the word out as to the benefits of our group. I would encourage anyone running a group to get involved.

The SCC "Toolbox" is Ready

Rosi Enriquez

The SCC “Toolbox” is a great opportunity to create a new look for any of your lectures you want to enhance and make available to students on the Web. Last year the Distance Education Taskforce came up with a list of software they considered essential tools for faculty and staff to be able to produce exciting presentations that will enrich our students’ learning experiences. Specifically, we wanted to be able to come up with software that would enable us to use:

- audio
- video
- recording techniques
- editing capabilities with more cutting edge productivity

As a result, the Technology Advisory Group, or TAG, agreed to assist us launch a pilot that would test the software, set up training and required support for faculty/staff interested in volunteering to learn to produce teaching projects from their respective disciplines, as well as determine cost, if any, for additional software and how we can create training modules similar to those that have already been done for our online student orientation.

If you go to Distance Learning under the Students section on the sccollege.edu home page and click on Blackboard Tutorials, you will see what can be accomplished with some of the "Toolbox" software. Basically what we are going to do is:

- Identify faculty interested in producing a project for their online or traditional students
- List the software they want to learn to use for their respective projects
- Describe the projects they are producing for their students

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SCC Toolbox . . .  
(Continued from page 3)

From here the Distance Ed Taskforce would like to complete the following:

- Compile a software dictionary with succinct descriptions/definitions
- Plan a Distance Education brainstorming session to highlight some of the more successful software programs and determine which programs would be most useful and effective
- Encourage faculty and staff participation, especially among those who have had experience with the latest software
- Plan and organize regular training sessions in the CLI (SAC) and FDC (SCC)
- Determine the feasibility of creating a sound booth for faculty to record lectures, tutorials, etc. and the usage of software from respective computers

The following table represents the condensed list of toolbox software and where it is located at SCC.

Draft Toolbox SCC Fall 2008

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We are fortunate that we have the majority of the programs. Missing programs can be substituted with other software that perform similar tasks.

We look forward to hearing from interested faculty and showcasing all of the wonderful work that we will accomplish through this rich media pilot.

MEEBO Comes to SCC Library!

Leah Freidenrich

The SCC Library, under the direction of Alice Ho, Systems Librarian, has incorporated Meebo, an online messaging tool with a chat format, into their services at the Information Desk. The Meebo link to Meebo.com is present on all student library computers allowing students to Meebo, or instant message, the librarian on duty with questions about assignments or their information needs. The librarian responds to Meebo messages from the students with links to articles, titles of books or other information. This allows students quick access to an information search specialist, without ever having to leave their seat! Meebo is great for sensitive topics where an in-person interview might be intimidating to the student or for the student who is multi-tasking at their computer. SCC Librarians say, “ASK – and we will Meebo!”