Notes from Technology Discussions:

No Show’s: 1/26 H-2, 1/27 Forum West, 1/31 B-5, 2/1 Library 147, 2/3 Fine Arts 30

An English instructor attended 1/25. Talked about H-2 and the monitor not coming on and functioning at all (that morning). Laptop is better. Would suggest having wireless keyboards and mouse for each station. Has high praise for system when it is operating correctly. His ideal classroom would have a large enough image to be seen by each student. It would have a projector, white board, computer, doc cam, 50-70 inch screen. Link for i-pad and other devices. Also have Wi-Fi stronger in the Humanities building. Talked about utilizing all labs and knowing when they are available.

The department chairperson of FACE (Family & Consumer Education) and an instructor from the FACE department attended 1/31. Talked about service levels – happy with the level of service – it’s fine. Adjunct and even full time faculty need training on how to best use the equipment carts in the classrooms and other areas on campus (Humanities, Business, Language Arts). I mentioned to Coyle that we could come out to a department meeting or to a special session ahead of the semester start. We could even do an evening session with all of the adjunct.

The department chairperson will be ordering 7 new laptops – absolutely needed for faculty. They are using outdated technology as far as their laptops go. Will seek VTEA money to do so both this year and next.

Department desperately wants a computer lab in the FACE building. Felt strongly about securing their areas. Wants White Boards instead of Chalk Boards.

Doesn’t understand why service to major systems appears to happen around mid-terms, finals and other important schedules – Grading time. Thinks that there is a great disconnect between the campus needs and the district/infrastructure as to when this happens. At least that is the impression.

Big concern on why it’s taking so long for the creation online student tutorial. Questioned why it was going to take until 2013. While realizing we are short staffed right now, she feels the district should pick up the slack or lack of staff and move forward with creation. Suggested getting faculty at both here and Cerro Coso together and try to come up with a solution quickly. Even suggested having a web page where a student could click on the topic they have a problem with and the help guide would be there for that. Students are the #1 priority – want to be able to provide help for them right now. Need the tools to do that and make those decisions right now to make it happen. Helping the students with basic navigation skills is taking up a lot of the instructor’s time in the first three weeks of class. Not content navigation – but basic navigation. She feels that we really need an online assessment/orientation – yesterday. She feels we need to make the online class experience easier for the students to navigate overall. Even faculty continue to have difficulty with navigation of the online classes.
The department chairperson felt that the district and IT in general should anticipate or gear up to anticipate potential problems like with registration for instance. He’s noticed that the first day of registration is usually problematic.

Comments sent via Email regarding Faculty Satisfaction with technology

Email sent: 1/17/2012

“The instructor station in L-148 is not very accessible due to the height of the computer! Awhile back IS purchased some type of switch that would enable me to use a laptop w/ one of the lower sides of the station, but I am not sure of the status... I think there was trouble with purchasing or getting the wrong equipment... Although I am able to teach to teach in the room, it still presents difficulties... Looking at the recent survey I thought this would be a good time to revisit this issue...”

Email sent: 1/20/2012

FACE 20--it has been a semester since I taught in this classroom, but I am now in FACE 20 again this semester. The updates in the classroom are fine, and my earlier comments about technology in FACE 20 can now be deleted.

Another issue, however, is that the classroom door does NOT close properly, and therefore remains open most of the time. The faculty chair, and probably others, have submitted work orders repeatedly to no avail. I am concerned because the projector was stolen last year (?) and with the door remaining open much of the time, the projector may be at risk for being stolen once more. Can this be remedied?

LA 110 & others in LA from my survey: The comments on my survey list the issues with these classrooms in LA. Any chance these classrooms can have technology installed and/or improved?