

**2007 Strategic Planning Group Retreat Notes**  
**IT Discussion, What's next in Information Technology?**

**Discussion topics from report-outs from small group discussions:**

- Communication
  - Need to communicate with students the way that they communicate, i.e. cell phone, opportunities for cell phone usage; use Nakatani Ctr to become current with how students are using technology. Ipod-like device? Should we be thinking about doing more about these? Understand and communicate effectively with this generation of students.
  - Different tools have allowed us to communicate 24/7 with students; how do we ensure that we have two-way communication. The millennial generation provides challenges. Be proactive with students; there are expectations of appropriate use of technology in the classroom, respect, manners.
- What will the role of the library be in the future? Physical vs. virtual resources; repository for faculty virtual resources
- Dream classroom merging brick and mortar with technology
  - multifunctional, flexible
  - prepare teachers to use technology
  - flexibility for future applications
  - flexibility of space
  - brick to click
  - adapt for a variety of teaching methods (movable chairs and tables)
  - How do we plan for the future to keep classrooms and buildings current?
  - Current state budget issues
  - How do you wire an old building, and then rewire it when technology changes again? Is wireless better and can it be made better to replace hard wiring?
  - interaction with world virtual classrooms.
- Technology incubators
  - curriculum with technology-need training, next generation of Nakatani center, incorporate them together.
  - Need for training and development for faculty to be able to utilize these new technologies.
- Technology gives students who can't get to campus possibilities. We need more virtual technology. Students of color who can't get to campus still being able to participate. Resources at the remote sites are sometimes not up to speed; do we need to update those to improve the virtual remote sites?
- Instructional services to students- totally online students need virtual service and service needs to be at the same level for those students. The Career Services office currently provides an extremely high level of services to all students; they do not have to come to

campus to obtain their services. Add/drop classes, textbooks, obtain signatures.  
Continue to work on providing virtual services.

- Electronic signature is needed.
- Improve wireless services. The wire network is sometimes challenged.
- We should ask the students what they would like us to do with technology.
  
- Research cyber infrastructure:
  - IT research, use gaming technology?
  - Focus on learning outcomes
  - How to support future technology uses
  
- We are positioned well to do more research in the area of instructional technologies, the use of gaming, immersion program technology, and focus on research in new areas. Pay attention to how we would support these new ideas; kudos to the curriculum incubation center.
- Most faculty seem to be competent in managing d2l, etc. but how can we help them improve and ask them what they want to be capable of doing regarding instruction?
  
- Optimizing and improving and enhancing what we already have is important.
- Laptop contracts, shorter time periods to not lock into technology that becomes obsolete
- Classrooms should be flexible
- Students use the technology infrastructure outside the classroom, using laptops for research, students use laptops for photos
- Faculty using calendaring, e-mail
- Students will be expected to use laptops, etc. on the job
- Text messaging could be used to notify students of things happening on campus
- Some classes use laptops a lot, others have more traditional classroom styles
  
- Laptops are a distraction in class
  - Smaller device may help
  - Faculty set guidelines
  - Create environment conducive for learning
  
- Asking students what their expectations of technology are, and tapping into what the students are using currently
- Providing technology training for those who really need it, students, faculty and staff, different stages of existing knowledge are present on campus
- Monitoring how students learn
- Matching the learning environment with technology, can be a problem in combined classroom with UD and GR.
- There are a variety of methods used by teachers

#### **Central Themes from large group report outs:**

- Better utilize technology we have

- Misuse of technology is a huge distraction for other students; use technology as a solution to this problem
- Some classes do not need to use technology
- Faculty may need to manage technology even though they don't want to be the "police"; standards of use may need to be developed
- Tying technology to learning outcomes
- Communicate with students in the way they are using technology. Faculty may need training to do this without invading the students' personal space
- Know students' expectations and clarify faculty's expectations
- Ask what kind of community we want to establish at UW-Stout
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Don't forget the people; humanize technology/balance
- Technology is great but there is a downside. People can become addicted to gaming, for instance. Balance is important.
- Assessment, what's working and what's not working
- How do you manage disruptive change? (new technology)
- "Future proofing" facilities and employees (architect term)
- Communication is critical
- Merging of technologies is happening worldwide, operational standards are important, i.e. security, privacy
- Need for standards: hardware, software, interoperability of software, operational (security, identity theft), service management
- Expectations of students; dependency on technology has grown and will continue to grow

Is the laptop the student's personal space; is the cell phone the students' personal space? By using d2l, it helps faculty communicate better with the students. The faculty can set ground rules for the use of email, etc...

Distance education is considered face-to-face education by the students in other locations.

What kind of network do we want to have at Stout? My space, facebook, etc...

How we communicate and what we communicate with the students is important and should be explored.

Should there be a virtual student center? Too much personal info on myspace and facebook. Informal communication between faculty and students is important, but we need to find a way to do that. Discussion boards on d2l work for this purpose, but is confined to that specific course. The MSC is looking at this topic. It's good to have something out there where faculty and students can have informal communication. Face-to-face informal communication between faculty and students is also very important. Strong interpersonal skills are important for prospective employers. Identify the appropriate medium to have informal communication.

There has not been a lot of research into what we have done that works and doesn't, what other institutions have done.

Do students like what is going on with communication, or does the university need to do the type of communication that will provide the students with the best skills to use when they graduate? Can we utilize the way that students communicate with each other to communicate with them?

We have enough technology tools available to use, let's use what we have and make it more interactive. Perhaps some teachers need to be better informed or trained to use the tools that are available. The faculty do know that these tools are available; some of them take a lot of time to set up. LTS will help all faculty do whatever they want to do in their classes.

There is so much information out there; we need to find ways to access it. Remember to learn from what others are doing.

“Conflict”- what students want vs. what they need. Need to research so we are getting the most for the costs involved.

**Jim Bottum's summary of the discussion:**

- Flexibility and adaptability
- Don't forget the people; humanize technology/balance
- Technology is great but there is a downside. People can become addicted to gaming, for instance. Balance is important.
- Assessment, what's working and what's not working
- How do you manage disruptive change? (new technology)
- “Future proofing” facilities and employees (architect term)
- Communication is critical
- Merging of technologies is happening worldwide, operational standards are important, i.e. security, privacy,
- Need for standards: hardware, software, interoperability of software, operational (security, identity theft), service management
- Expectations of students; dependency on technology has grown and will continue to grow
- “root kit”, gives hackers root access to computers
- Should the internet be scrapped? This is a serious debate currently going on.