

University of Alaska Southeast Teaching, Learning, and Technology Roundtable

Minutes October 28, 2005

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by co-chair Steven Hamilton.

2. **Attendance.** The following members attended:

Jason Ohler	Colleen McKenna
Wayne Haas	Matt Heavner
David Noon	Robert Starbard
Susie Feero	Marnie Chapman
Barney Norwick	Joseph Sears
John Bilderbeck	Marsha Gladhart
Michael Ciri	Steven Hamilton

3. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was approved with the addition of the following items:

Update on TLTR Projects from Last Year
E-Portfolios for Faculty

4. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the September 30 meeting were approved as written.

5. **E-Portfolios for Faculty.** Jason introduced the issue of E-portfolios for faculty. The initial discussion was related to the use of e-portfolios and their potential use in the faculty tenure and continuance evaluation process. Some of the initial issues raised were:

- The potential need for some kind of standardized format that would assist reviewers.
- Tendency of reviewers to be biased against electronic material.

The suggestion was made, with group concurrence, that the issue of adapting e-portfolios for faculty use in this application would be more appropriately discussed in the Information Services Committee under the auspices of Faculty Senate. Steve was directed to communicate with the President of Faculty Senate to convey the issue and associated interest to them.

Additional discussion continued around the use of e-portfolios by faculty in a classroom/learning environment. This discussion included the following elements:

- The use of e-portfolios by groups or teams
- The use of e-portfolios to demonstrate learning outcomes

Michael Ciri requested that TLTR take on a continuing role of examining e-portfolio application either by an ongoing agenda item or some ongoing workgroup. The point was made that this issue and the faculty evaluation issue are clearly two separate issues and will be addressed separately. The group agreed to give this issue additional thought over the next month to try and identify the best way to proceed. This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

7. Action Agenda. The action agenda for this meeting consisted of presentation and brief review of potential topics and issues to be addressed by TLTR this year.

A. Use of Technology in Assessment Process. Steve initially presented the group with a summary of what had been done thus far, primarily the setting up of a web forum for use by the workgroup. There was some discussion of some possible ways to operationalize this and Michael Ciri described some of the technical possibilities associated with these methods. The group will continue their work and report back next session.

B. Federal Higher Education Act Reauthorization Issues. Bob Starbard reported back that he had researched the pending legislation, which is currently in conference committee. He indicated that, based on his reading, earlier fears about the impact may well be a worse case scenario and that, it will remain uncertain until the Congress takes up the bill again in February. At that time, the proceedings may well give insight into legislative intent. In the meantime, the basic position that we endorse is that distance education not be subjected to more rigorous standards than traditional classes. The group will continue to work and report back on this

C. Criteria for Assessing Media Projects. Although the group has not done any work on this, Jason presented the concept to TLTR. There was some discussion as to what the issue of assessment really was...and how assessment of media was really any different than assessment of any other form of student work. Much of the discussion centered around how different components would be evaluated...in other words, what makes a particular component of media work “good” or “bad?” There was general agreement that much of the evaluation would be situational, depending on what the faculty member was looking for on any given assignment.

D. Special Projects. The group was well pleased with Joseph Seers’ work on the new special projects ad. Steve was directed to have it placed in Soundings and posted around campus. TLTR members should take this back to their departments for distribution internally. Steve indicated that Robbie had requested the schedule be moved up somewhat to allow for decision in February...which would allow purchase in March. The group was supportive of this change.

E. Previous Year Project Presentations. The updates on the projects from last year were deferred until next meeting due to lack of time.

8. Next Meeting. The next meeting of TLTR is scheduled for Friday, December 2 from 10:30 until noon in Novatney 102.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Hamilton
Co-Chair