Technology Planning Committee

The Technology Planning Committee is taking advantage of the rejuvenating nature of summer. We have scaled back our meetings to once a month; however, the rate of change of technology doesn’t seem to demand any less attention. There are a number of items that may be of interest.

First, ACC has been fortunate to obtain a technology grant from the state. The planning committee continues to educate itself on technology-related strategic planning goals to support progress afforded by this grant. Look for the article in this edition explaining what is happening with this grant.

Second, the Instructional Council is working with Frank Markley, Jim Sears and the Planning Committee to develop an instructional technology cascade (replacement) plan. Preliminary information indicates that users will be categorized according to required capability and upgrades to hardware and software will be driven by that categorization. Further information will be available as this plan crystallizes. The instructional cascade plan should provide a framework for a collegewide technology support department.

Finally, the Planning Committee will be involved in the development of guidelines and/or policies covering the professional use of information technology. It is intended that the development of these guidelines or policies be open and inclusive.

Implementation Task Force

During the first week of May, the Implementation Task Force had its final meeting. The task force approved a total budget of approximately $500,000 for telecommunications, computing services and networking. The recommendation of the task force included funding technology “off the top” of the FY2000-2001 budget. As a result, there will be no computer or networking charges from individual cost centers. The $30 per month charge for telephone service will remain in effect for the next fiscal year. Words of thanks to Jim Sears, Computer Services; Jim Dunne, Computer Science and Information Systems; Linda Heesch, Disability Services; Patrick Enright, Business and Professional Services; and Frank Markley, Information Technology, Services and Planning, for their time and efforts in establishing a collegewide technology support department.

ACC Receives $1.9 Million in Technology Funding

With the Governor’s signing of the Long Bill in May 2000, ACC secured approximately $1.9 million in capital construction funds for use in technology-related projects! Completed in 1998, ACC’s technology plan included three initiatives: (1) instructional technology to upgrade and/or add labs, equipment and other technologies to instructional spaces in support of student learning; (2) student support services technology to upgrade and/or add capacity to provide "high-tech/high-touch" student services for students at all campus sites and at a distance; (3) disability support technology to upgrade and/or add capacity to provide improved access to instructional programs, student services and other campus services through technology. The first initiative receives 55% of the funding, the second 30%, and the third 15%.

The funds from this project can be expended upon revision of ACC’s technology plan, which should be complete by August 2000. Dale Beckmann, vice president of Instruction; Lin Claussen, Admissions and Records; and Linda Heesch, Disability Services, are working with their constituents to evaluate the original plan and make modifications, based on changed needs and/or newer technologies. The revised plan will then be forwarded to Frank Marley's area for an analysis of any additional infrastructure needs (e.g., modifications to voice, data and video networks) before the final plan is approved. The final revision of the modified plan will be submitted to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) on July 31. If accepted, we can implement the plan beginning August 1. Details concerning the use of these funds will be explained in more detail during the all-college meeting in August.

Special thanks to Judy Ganschaw, vice president of Administrative Services, Linda Lujan, Education Technology; and Frank Markley, Information Technology, Services and Planning, for keeping the project on track through the legislative process.
Telecoop Conference Report

The Telecommunications Cooperative for Colorado (Telecoop) hosted its 11th Annual Distance Learning Conference, "Technology in the Learning Century" on April 12, 13 and 14 at the Doubletree Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Twelve ACC staff members attended this three-day event which featured keynotes, seminars and workshops, vendor exhibits, networking opportunities, as well as time to relax and absorb all the ways that technology is affecting how we learn and teach.

Many repeat attendees felt this was the best conference yet. The conference focus has gone beyond distance learning to a much broader view of all types of technology-assisted learning and teaching activities. Besides instruction, there was a focus on student support services, library services and other types of technology-assisted systems for a variety of educational enterprises. Every attendee was able to find information useful to his/her area.

In addition to numerous Colorado attendees, participants came from Arizona, California, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington DC, Wisconsin and Wyoming. It was interesting to learn all the ways in which other states and other schools are tackling some of the challenges of technology and distance learning. There is no one-size-fits-all answer, just many good ideas from some very creative folks.

Kim Larson-Cooney, Community Education, and her wonderful assistants were instrumental (as always) in coordinating the conference registration. (Kim was rewarded for her hard work during the last day’s luncheon when she won not one, but two, door prizes!) Linda Lujan’s presentation, "Learning and Teaching at a Distance: How to Convert your Course," was a success with over thirty-five wide-awake and active participants in the late afternoon of the second long day of presentations.

Keynote speakers included Christine Dalziel, Executive Director of the Instructional Telecommunications Council; Bob Masterson, Executive Director of the U.S. Open University; and Tim Foster, Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). Mr. Foster’s presentation was especially thought provoking as he elaborated on the policy perspectives of the legislature and CCHE in relationship to technology and distance learning.

Foundation Technology Grant

The ACC Foundation pledged to use the proceeds from the Chocolate Soirée to assist in bringing additional technology into the College. As a result of their grant the following items have been ordered:

• Four portable data projectors, computers and document cameras: two each for Main/Annex, one each for the North building and one each for the Art and Design Center. This equipment will be available for scheduling through the Media Center ($23,600);
• One document camera for UCC ($2,600);
• One computer for Triad ($1,800); and
• Headsets for the Open Computer Lab ($2,600).

The Technology Planning Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to our faculty, staff and administrators of Arapahoe Community College. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome. Please send items by August 1, 2000 to:

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The panicked screams and clatter of moving furniture sent me scrambling out of my office to investigate. To my amazement, I saw one office employee crouched on top of her desk and another panicked staffer perched on top of her chair. Then, my eye caught the cause of this clamor dashing across the floor—a mouse. These staffers experienced a negative "mouse encounter" of the worst kind.

Several years ago I experienced my own unpleasant "mouse encounter" when I shifted from the keyboard-based WordPerfect setting to a point and click Microsoft mouse environment. Taking my hands off the keys to maneuver the distracting mouse cost me time and efficiency. I was not an easy convert.

But since that time, I have learned to utilize the best of both environments by combining the power of the point and click mouse environment with keyboard commands.

For example, I find it easier and faster to set line spacing by using the following keyboard commands:

| Single-space lines | CTRL+1 |
| Double-space lines | CTRL+2 |
| Set 1.5-line spacing | CTRL+5 |
| Add or remove one line space preceding a paragraph | CTRL+0 (zero) |

If you experienced any unpleasant "mouse encounters," and are interested in learning more about keyboard commands, visit www.microsoft.com/enable/products/key board.htm