

**From** Harvey Hughett <hughett@uidaho.edu>  
**Sent** Thursday, November 9, 2006 1:12 pm  
**To** 'Erik Anderson' <eanderso@uidaho.edu> , 'Chuck Hatch' <crhatch@uidaho.edu> , 'David Schlater' <davids@uidaho.edu> , 'Frank Cronk' <fcronk@uidaho.edu> , 'James Frenzel' <jfrenzel@uidaho.edu> , 'Nancy Krogh' <nkrogh@uidaho.edu> , 'Norman Pendergraft' <norman@uidaho.edu> , 'Peter Goodwin' <pgoodwin@uidaho.edu> , 'Ruth Funabiki' <funabiki@uidaho.edu> , 'Ruth Swan-Brown' <ruthsb@uidaho.edu>  
**Cc** maggiec@uidaho.edu  
**Bcc**  
**Subject** RE: ITC and Computing Skills Training Note

Colleagues,

I don't have any changes to make to the ITC minutes but would like to add a background comment about one of the items mentioned.

If I remember right, in the "old days" it was my understanding that the Computer Science Department first offered basic skills classes in MS Word, Excel, etc. At some point, they dropped these and the old Computer Services unit took on the task of some of these workshops as part of the Banner Training group, etc. That was when money was still around and Telephone Services was being milked for support for lots of different services. Due to A21 regulations this is no longer possible. Also, since then, ITS has experienced nearly \$2 million in budget cuts and Banner Training was assumed by HRS. There were discussions about this and HR chose not to offer training in basic desktop computing skills and ITS had to terminate the service as unfunded.

The question needs to be asked, whose responsibility is it to provide basic skills workforce training? ITS? Human Resources? College of Education? Computer Science Department? Or should prospective UI employees be expected to come to jobs at the university with basic training in MS Word, Excel, etc.? ITS tried "for charge, cost-recovery" classes at one time for these and ran a \$40K deficit trying to maintain them on a self-sustaining basis (after a lab was one-time funded and set up). People/departments were unwilling to pay for the basic skills courses. Back to the above question, who has the responsibility for basic skillsets? If the UI is having difficulty in attracting qualified employees w/basic skillsets, then this should be given some thought and funded as a "necessary common good." Or the responsibility may be expected of individuals to seek training other places? I'm not sure if the College of Ed still offers these kind of courses? They used to anyway. The basics on how to use a computer are taught in all secondary schools and short courses are available in a variety of places. Do local businesses, banks, companies provide MS Office training to its employees or are applicants expected to prepare themselves for those jobs?

On the other hand, Banner and WebCT training are very specialized, not available other places, and fall into the category of "must be offered" to work in certain areas of the University of Idaho. HRS provides Banner training and ITS CTI offers training in WebCT. To this point, and with current budgets, ITS does not view its role and mission as that of providing remedial workforce training that is generic and widely available to the general population. However, if there's a legitimate need and adequate funding made available, the proper department to provide this kind of training should be identified.

Just some stray thoughts. Thanks,

Harvey  
ITS

-----Original Message-----

From: Erik Anderson [mailto:eanderso@uidaho.edu]

Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2006 10:13 AM  
To: Chuck Hatch; David Schlater; Frank Cronk; Harvey L. Hughett; James Frenzel; Nancy Krogh; Norman Pendergraft; Peter Goodwin; Ruth Funabiki; Ruth Swan-Brown  
Cc: maggiec@uidaho.edu  
Subject: UI Information Technology Committee minutes & next meeting

To: Members of the UI Information Technology Committee

Attached you'll find a draft of the minutes from our meeting on 10/18/06. Please review and send me any corrections or additions.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29th from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time (11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mountain Time). We will be meeting in the same place -- Ag Biotech room 101. As before, let me know if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

Here's a tentative agenda for our meeting on 11/29:

1. IT Advisory group update
2. Continuing discussion of IT topics to address

If you have any additional agenda items, please forward them to me.

Erik

-----  
Erik Anderson  
Director  
Educational Communications  
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
PO Box 442332  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, ID 83844-2332

Phone: 208-885-6632  
Fax: 208-885-9046  
eanderso@uidaho.edu  
<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu>  
-----