

Senate Computing Usage Committee – December 4, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: Vincent Arena, Joe Costantino, PJ Dillon, Michael Bolan, Frank Beatrous, Laura Hillock, John Close, Jinx Walton, Susan Sereika, Alex Labrinidis, Irene Freize, James Doty

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION TO BE TAKEN |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Call to order | Vincent called the meeting to order at 10:05am. | |
| Coursehero and misuse of copyrighted material | <p>Laura R. Hillock, from the Office of General Counsel, made a presentation about the www.Coursehero.com web site and participated in the discussion. Main points:</p> <p>Coursehero (and other sites like it) enable students to post material from their courses in a central location, for other students to find. To be members of the site (and have access to such material) users must either contribute material themselves, or pay for the service. This applies to both students and faculty.</p> <p>The problem arises from the fact that most (if not all) of the material that students are posting onto Coursehero is copyrighted material (usually by the faculty teaching the course). This includes lecture notes, slides, assignments, exams, and solutions, typically posted to CourseWeb or to a class web site. In addition to the obvious copyright violation issue, often times the material will be out-dated or vary from the version currently used in the class, leading to problems when other students rely on it.</p> <p>By default, material is copyright by the person posting the material (i.e., the faculty member), even if there is no explicit copyright notice and even if the material is posted on a public web site. Although copyright is implied, one suggestion to faculty is to make it explicit (e.g., by adding a copyright notice on material that is distributed and on web pages), and also educate students about copyright (possibly by including a policy in their course syllabi).</p> | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | <p>The education policies committee has also looked at the issue.</p> <p>An explicit copyright notice does not mean that the material cannot be reused by others. For example, under a creative commons license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/) others could possibly reuse the posted material, but not be allowed to make derivatives or use commercially.</p> <p>If a faculty member identifies copyrighted material that has been posted without authorization, he/she can ask for it to be removed. Coursehero (and similar sites) should respond to a proper request to remove copyright material (called a DMCA takedown notice). The University's Office of General Counsel can help faculty assert their rights. A sample DMCA complaint is readily available. Unfortunately, the University cannot issue a "global" DMCA complaint on behalf of all faculty.</p> | |
| <p>Approval of previous minutes</p> | <p>November 2010 minutes reviewed and approved.</p> | |
| <p>CSSD's Report – Jinx Walton</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is progress on converting campus-wide paper announcements to electronic form. Jinx Walton met with Mailing Services and discussed the implementation. - The campus phone directory is available over the www.pitt.edu web site (under Find People). This has been completely open to all, but can be used to collect people's email addresses and compile mailing lists. To avoid this, a security feature has been implemented for accesses originating outside the campus network: after three attempts a captcha prompt will be shown and successful completion will be required before a lookup request is processed. | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | - CSSD is working towards making RIDC park FISMA-compliant. | |
| Getting photo-rosters for classes | <p>It has been suggested to provide the capability to faculty to access a photo roster of their students in their classes. This will allow faculty to map student names to faces and help make the class more interactive.</p> <p>This is already being implemented in ad-hoc ways across campus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in some cases, faculty are getting photos directly from the ID center and compile photo rosters manually, - in some cases, faculty take photos of all students in a class, and - in some other cases, a photo roster is generated for all the students of a department/school. <p>All committee members who expressed an opinion believe this to be a positive idea.</p> <p>To implement the photo roster feature, PeopleSoft needs to be linked to the ID center. Jinx Walton discussed the issue with the PeopleSoft team; it seems this can be implemented in the near future.</p> | |
| Other business | None | |
| | Meeting was adjourned at 11am by Alex | |

Scribe: Alex Labrinidis