

STUDENT COMPUTER OWNERSHIP (SCO) COMMITTEE

MEETING: 11-22-2013 (11 am – 12:15 pm)

Committee Members: Critz, Lori [08-14] Library; Grigoriev, Roman [13-16] Physics; Kim, Hyesoon [10-16] CoC-CS; Potter, Steve [09-15] BME; Walker, Bruce [08-14] Psych Edson, Miles Campus Services, ITG; McDaniel, Steven Campus Services, ResNet ITG; Myers, Dale OIT Raj Vuchatu GTRI (Executive Board Liaison); Kevin Guebert (Student Representative)

Attending: Lori Critz (Chair) (Library); Bruce Walker (Psych); Miles Edson (Campus Services – ITG); Steven McDaniel (ITG); Dale Myers (OIT); Raj Vuchatu (Executive Board Liaison) (GTRI); Kevin Guebert (Student Representative)

Discussion Items:

1. Welcome & Introductions
 - Lori will pursue replacing Alex Taubman with another technical rep. (Peter When?) from B & N
2. Approval of 9/4/13 SCO Committee Meeting
 - Motion to approve: Bruce Walker; Second: Dale Myers; Approved by voice vote
3. Emerging Trends & issues that may affect Student Computer Ownership Policy & Guide for 2014/2015
 - a. Tablets continue to gain prominence and computing ability; some now run on a full operating system; some may meet the minimum requirements in 2014 (e.g. Dell Pro II 256 which is essentially a laptop with detachable keyboard); monitoring needed to determine if devices without the 64 bit architecture could be suitable substitutes for laptops if they have the software needed to do the tasks needed for coursework at GT
 - b. Freshmen Survey (from ITG/ResNet) – queried all freshmen a few weeks into fall semester; approximately 800 responses; 26.3% have a laptop + iPad or tablet; 91.2% have a smartphone, iPhone or Android phone; OS and Windows are predominant operating systems used with only 7 freshmen using Linux as primary OS; MAC had 35.1% of the freshmen market while PCs were at about 65%; average funds spent for the laptop was \$1000-\$1500, but many spent \$1500-\$2000
 - c. Educause Students and Technology 2013 Report should be consulted – “ECAR has surveyed undergraduate students annually since 2004 about technology in higher education. In 2013, ECAR collaborated with more than 250 higher education institutions to collect responses from more than 112,000 undergraduate students about their technology experiences and expectations. The findings are distilled into four broad themes to help educators and higher education institutions better understand how

students experience technology on their respective campuses and the ways in which new, better, or more technology can impact students' relationship with information technology." - <http://sites.ewu.edu/elearningservices/2013/09/16/educause-students-and-technology-2013-report/>

- d. GT Financial Consideration for computer purchases was lowered from \$1500 to \$1100 for 2013 -- SCO Committee was not consulted; our Executive Board liaison will consult with the Board to determine if we can submit a request for reconsidering this new limit – including where this request would be submitted (Exec. Board, Faculty Senate, GT Administration)
 - e. Dale attended the MAC Conference in 2013 – the “Volume Purchase Program” where districts or organizations can purchase electronic textbooks at a discount (which can be passed along to students) is now available for higher education as well as K-12
 - f. Some GT classrooms, according to our student rep. and faculty members, have issues with providing consistent wifi; also lack of outlets – perhaps the Guide needs more explanation of the use of the dual band capability of laptops (FAQ?); also faculty perhaps could be provided recommendations for application use & technical realities in the classroom
 - g. New laptops have significantly longer battery life (14 – 20 hours for some) – we need to investigate whether the minimum battery life guideline should be increased for 2014/2015
 - h. Linux is increasing in use by students and for classroom assignments; one CS course now requires it; currently CoC is supporting Linux but OIT does not; Raspberry Pie and other Linux applications are in use for robotics; Python coding is increasing and requires Linux as well
 - i. Accessibility issues for disabled students are increasing – T-Square, wikis, websites, etc. present issues; perhaps SCO Policy can address this
 - j. Cloud storage issues; robust alternatives to DropBox must be offered
 - k. From a student perspective, Kevin suggests that defining “tablet” and setting guidelines for their use/ownership is critical
 - l. Student use of electronic textbooks and the support requirements need to be delineated
4. SCO website (sco.gatech.edu)
 - Committee asked to review site and submit recommendations for additions/revisions
 - Info on Committee has been added as well as archive of past documents and all current policy details
 5. Adjournment: 12:15 pm