

Oregon Caucus Meets at Portland Community College

The NW/MET Oregon Caucus convened at Portland Community College Sylvania campus on November 9th. Guests were treated to informal discussion over snacks and beverages graciously provided by host Robert Schmitt. There were 16 attendees representing 2 state system universities, 2 community colleges, 3 private institutions, 1 vendor and 2 Emeritus members.

Robert convened the meeting at 9:30 and outlined an agenda. Doug McCartney, current Director of NW/MET, urged all participants to submit proposals for presentations for the annual meeting to be held at the Marcus Whitman Hotel in Walla Walla, WA, from March 19th through 21st. Marti Morandi introduced the round robin sessions, a tradition at Oregon meetings. One of the longest round robins that I have attended (2 ½ hours) allowed members to discuss what each of their areas at various campuses were involved in, ask questions and make suggestions.

Bill Phillips, Cascade campus, PCC, has 4 new buildings in the north Portland location. Ninety percent of all of their classroom buildings are equipped for multimedia with Crestron controls, online ITV. **Shally Hartman** has been at the Sylvania campus for 18 years and is in charge of daily delivery. They have 9 mobile carts and often must turn people down. Can't keep up with demand for VHS camcorders as their faculty have yet to make the switch to digital. Her staff has direct support of classrooms--excluding the computers which are handled by TSS.

We were pleased to see **Mark Kramer** return to the group. Mark is currently a media specialist working for the School of Nursing at OHSU two days a week. **Rick Brand** told us that the media services at Oregon State University have been restructured. He discussed "clicker" technology. Students buy the clickers with their books so the Bookstore supports the students in this use while Media Services supports the faculty. **Andy Lockhart** (many of you may remember him from Northwest Nazarene where he worked with Duane Slemmer) is now at Linfield College. When he arrived there two summers ago there were 5 multimedia projectors on campus and no rooms were equipped. Now 20 of 55 rooms have multimedia with 10 more rooms scheduled to go online. Andy has the dubious fortune to report to 2 directors—Director of Media Services and Director of Instructional Support. **Patrick Ryall**, Lewis & Clark College, has about 50 of 100 classrooms with Crestron controllers. He inquired about what scheduling software people were using. Various folks discussed homegrown systems, R25 et. al. **John Pergial** of PCC, maintains the media services website (looks good, John!), coordinates assistive technology and is currently working on an equipment scheduling system. They are currently using a component of the Library's system. By using Contribute they are dispersing responsibility for web development.

Ward Robbins, PSU video engineer, besides operating TV facilities and handling distance ed, designs the electronic classrooms and is currently working on 40-50 projects. He has the thankless (my word) job of supervising the outside contractors. PSU is currently tearing walls out to make larger classrooms and adding technology to them. **Doug McCartney**, after the painful restructuring year of 2006 is now involved in putting services back together. He is now officially a Director. Currently he is involved in planning and implementation of a 3 year replacement plan. They are examining the technologies and which have been replaced. Also, PSU is working on the addition of iTunes U. **Mark Walker**, PSU's Manager of Classroom Services, devotes lots of time and energy to training student workers. There is an evening manager for event support from 2-10PM. PSU is leasing buildings as well as building new rooms which will all come on line as multimedia classrooms. **Donna Carver**, Chemeketa C.C. supervises classified staff and technicians in distance education delivery. Chemeketa is wrestling with what to do with telecourse transition and its TV presence. Chemeketa also uses R25 for room scheduling. For an attendee who asked about Podcasting, Donna recommended calling Paula at Columbia Gorge C.C. who recently received a grant for same. **Marti Morandi's** main concern is equipping a new academic building at Willamette University. The intent is to go away from the standard SmartPanel equipment to either an AMX or Crestron control system. The consultant for the project has recommended a very high-priced system, especially for 3 technology-heavy areas and Marti and **Vany Xiong**, also in attendance from Willamette, must come up with pricing in the next few days...yikes! Vany discussed the sound in these rooms. Others recommended both Shure and Beyer Dynamic audio. Also recommended were the Extron systems for control.

We were pleased to have one of our vendor members, Charles Doyle from Troxell, also in attendance. Charles told us that meetings like this are invaluable to him for learning where his constituents needs and interests lie.

Robert Schmitt and Scott Craig saved their information for the demos that followed lunch.

Lunch (furnished by Robert again!) was accompanied by slides of his India trip by Tony Midson, Emeritus of Portland State. Since Tony does home renovations and gardening, retirement has made him busier not less so.

After lunch **Robert** demonstrated the IP video set-up used between the PCC campuses and inside the Sylvania facilities. It is a Polycom site. The big advantage is that it allows classes only available on one campus to be seen at others. The rooms can also be used to capture a course for later viewing. Students can go to a website, click a link and find out what was taught that day. The room we were in had Panasonic flat screen monitors in front and rear, a Hitachi multimedia projector, a large screen along with the usual teaching station with Star Panel and Crestron touch screen control. Students can go to any classroom in any of the PCC campuses to view fiber optic full motion video. **Scott Craig** took us more into the technical descriptions of the equipment. Mentioned were the Crestron X-panels (virtual touch panel) and the Crestron control system.

The demos were followed by a tour of the master control room and a computer (Dell) classroom.

The meeting was a great networking opportunity and a chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new acquaintances.

Marti Morandi, Membership Coordinator
NW/MET