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# CTO Meeting Agenda

# Information:

Miscellaneous Next meeting June 21, 2006 via video Agenda items for next meeting?

#### **Email Services Planning**

The SCS Project Office has received a request from the CTO group to begin understanding the needs and planning for the delivery of essential email services to NSHE students, faculty and staff.

Within the Higher Education industry, basic email services have been provided by campuses to their students for over a decade. SCS has provided a central mechanism for campuses to offer basic email services since the mid-1980s, and has provided an email address for every student that is unique throughout NSHE in recent years.

Email communication is becoming more and more common as the channel of choice for institutions to deliver official campus information to their students.

Students and faculty are becoming more sophisticated in both their use and needs for email and other productivity tools such as calendaring, address books, multiple attachment capability, and more and more storage. NSHE campuses' email systems do not contain the rich functionality students and faculty would like to be able to use.

These are but a few of the questions that such a taskforce should investigate and report:

- What should a campus' email system provide functionally to its constituents?
- Should the system support wireless, mobile devices such as smartphones, organizers, handhelds and other ubiquitous technology?
- At what cost?
- How should it be deployed? Should we offer email for life?
- How do we handle the issues of spam, virus and forwarding emails?
- How do we encrypt FERPA protected data, such as grades, when they are sent via email?
- Should it be free or fee?

The PMO would propose the creation of a system-wide taskforce representing the campus roles affected by this service. The membership of this system-wide taskforce would be developed from nominations from each campus CTO for areas deemed relevant to assessing the requirements. Membership would include administrative personnel, faculty, students and technology professionals. Membership from campus executive levels, such as Vice Presidents of Student Affairs or Student Services should be included in order to understand the campus strategic goals in communicating with students and alumni through the use of email.

Ideally, these members would be able to discuss the functional needs for communication and productivity tools used by students and faculty. Members would be knowledgeable about campus user volumes (# of students; growth factors; retention factors; strategic uses for email being discussed by the campuses; etc.), and have a general understanding of the interfaces that would be needed to other applications.

Once a taskforce is assembled a scope would be defined for the assessment. Deliverables would be defined and dates and duration estimated.

A framework will be followed to facilitate the gathering, documentation, options evaluated and analyses performed as the basis for recommendations.

The framework may include several types of activities:

- Education to the membership on state of the industry/technology

Education will be developed to understand new and emerging technologies, trends and directions within higher education, and other areas as appropriate. Included here are links to two related articles:

## http://www.tltgroup.org/programs/seven.html

Chickering, Arthur and Stephen C. Ehrmann (1996), "Implementing the Seven Principles: Technology as Lever," AAHE Bulletin, October, pp. 3-6.

## http://chronicle.com/free/2001/06/2001061901t.htm

Carslston, Scott. (2001), "Colleges Offer Graduates Lifetime e-mail Addresses" The Chronicle of Higher Education

- Gathering Requirements\*\*

Interviews:

Taskforce members Student Government Focus groups Faculty Senates

On-line Surveys

Campus users

- Gap Analyses of Current vs. Future Needs
- Application Sizing

Users

Storage

Archiving

- Trends and Directions within Higher Education
- Solution options

Outsourcing options

Open source application options

Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) options

- Cost Benefit Analysis of each option considered

\*\* NOTE: While the Taskforce could perform all interviews and surveys as a group, hearing from each campus directly, the CTOs may prefer their campus perform their own requirements gathering through interviews and surveys at their own campus, then bringing it to the taskforce for the remainder of the assessment activities.

The end result of the process should enable NSHE to evaluate all options to either develop or buy email services and be able to formulate a recommendation and a budget request for same.

We would like the CTOs to discuss this and to provide the names of campus leaders they believe should represent their campuses on this taskforce.