ITPB Wireless Subgroup

Summary Recommendations

June 10, 2008

1. At the January 2008 ITPB meeting, the ITPB discussed and agreed to the wireless working group recommendation for a field assessment to determine access point locations and costs to provide wireless coverage for the inside and outside locations requested by students (see attached). The objective is to be responsive to student needs to the extent possible in the short run. The following recommendations are made:

   a. Proceed with assessment/implementation of the general open and other areas on the student list.

   b. Support review and recommendations of wireless in general assignment classrooms by the Faculty Committee on Education Technology (FCET) and coordinated by the Office of Instructional Development (OID) – See Attached FCET Recommendations

   c. Proceed with a preliminary assessment of costs to deploy wireless in CHS.

   d. Review the School of Medicine wireless initiative as potential TIER (Technology Infrastructure for Education and Research) initiative.

2. To understand the future requirements for the campus with which to further develop and confirm the list of compelling drivers/expectations, the ITPB wireless group recommends:

   a. The CCLE, Data Management and Research CI workgroups convene to envision short and longer-term wireless expectations for research and education.

   b. The Office of Information Technology and Administration organize focus groups with such areas as Medical Center and its clinical enterprises, General Services (Facilities Management), Transportation Services, Inventory Operations, UCLA Police Department, Student Affairs, Libraries and Housing to develop a campus perspective on emerging wireless supported directions.

   c. The Next Generation Network team review emerging technologies and implementation trends at other institutions and provide recommendations on the technical deployment and operating models to best meet campus requirements and expectations and/or stage a deployment that can meet short- and long-term expectations.

3. We recommend that the ITPB Wireless Workgroup be disbanded. The conclusions will allow planning and recommendations through the ITPB, NGN, CSG and the TIER Functional Oversight Committee.
May 27, 2008

Alfonso Cardenas  
Chair, Information Technology Planning Board  

Dear Alfonso:  

The Faculty Committee on Educational Technology recently reviewed the ITPB Wireless Subgroup recommendations and appreciates the opportunity to comment with regard to wireless coverage in general assignment classrooms. We understand why students desire wireless coverage on campus, but have also observed that students are easily distracted when wireless is available in classrooms. We would like to express under what circumstances we feel the university can reap the greatest educational benefit in deploying wireless:

1. The installation of total wireless coverage in general assignment classrooms should be the lowest priority if resources are scarce.  
2. If total wireless coverage is provided in general assignment classrooms, it should be deployed in smaller capacity rooms (thirty or fewer seats,) where it would be feasible to do in-class exercises with all students having a laptop.  
3. Faculty should be made aware of which classrooms have wireless coverage via the OID Classroom website so that they may plan for their wireless access needs.

We appreciate your efforts in communicating this faculty perspective to the Undergraduate Student Association Council (USAC) and the ITPB Wireless Subgroup.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Poldrack  
Chair, Faculty Committee on Educational Technology

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