WOC meeting minutes – 4-18-2007

Present: Miriam Barkley, Todd Sutton, Mike Byers, Bruce Michaels, Ellen Robbins, Jason Fleck, John Eatman

Guest: Rob Owens, Blackboard Portal Sub-committee Chair

Absent: Robert Brown, Richard Cox, Gregory Grieve, Helen Dennison Hebert, Susan Hensley, Richard Stewart,

Recorder: Becky Kates for Sherri MacCheyne

No corrections for March minutes

Portal Report:
Printed copies of the Blackboard Report prepared by the Blackboard Portal Sub-committee were distributed.

The findings of the report were discussed at length including short-term & long term solutions. It was determined by the sub-committee that Blackboard is not the best long-term solution for the needs of the campus, but that it will be an important element of whatever that solution ends up being. The sub-committee determined that Luminis is a better long-term option. (More research would need to be done here. The sub-committee focused on the capabilities of Blackboard for this report.) However, resources would not be wasted by adapting Blackboard for use in the short-term because Blackboard will still be a big part of the UNCG Portal solution.

There are still unresolved issues with using Blackboard: Blackboard does not support portal standards, Blackboard transaction systems, etc.

The group also discussed the recommendations for additional IT staff.

Todd Sutton raised the issue of single sign-in as a high priority for the campus.

Final recommendations depend on the results of campus priority surveys. Constituent groups on campus have been asked to rank a list of campus-wide priorities by the end of May.

John Eatman raised the possibility of a standard portal system for the entire UNC system.

A recommendation was put together from the WOC to Jim Clotfelter. Todd Sutton agreed to type the recommendation & distribute it to the group. This recommendation will be pending results of the prioritization survey.
> **Action:** Todd to send to Sherri for distribution with minutes

Other business:
Bruce Michaels asked about the possibility of an update to WEB3. Pros & cons of an update were discussed, including department compliance issues. (The typical lifespan of a website is around 4 years.)

Todd Sutton suggested that we start looking toward the future, but we shouldn't "upset the applecart"

John Eatman said that a paradigm has been established. We shouldn't do anything radical with the wrapper. It should evolve over time. People are finally getting used to the guidelines & are comfortable with them.

Todd Sutton said that the WOC would be the best place to start the discussion. The top-tier webpages could be changed without affecting the lower pages.

Miriam Barkley suggested discussing the things we would like changed. Portals will make a big difference to any future plans. Maybe the WEB3 group could start discussions over the summer?

Miriam also discussed compliance issues. She has had a student investigate departmental compliance with the graphics standards. The results found more compliance than expected, but a report is not ready yet.

John Eatman pointed out that the Provost gave a mandate to the deans that they should be in compliance by fall 2007. Each dean was supposed to designate someone to check for compliance. He thought the Provost would be interested in Miriam's compliance report when it is completed.

Rob Owens recommended as a member of WEB3 looking into new web tools to spice up the homepage.

The May meeting of the WOC was cancelled per Helen & Todd.

The next meeting will be June 20th.