

Attendees: Fred Clark, Peter Tascarella, Sharon Wood, Carolyn Shafer, Diana Grinwis, Brian Bishop, Dave Haggadone, Jaime Severson, Christine Xiong, Constance Conklin, Susan Hardee

10:45 Meeting starts

Firstly, Brian would like to recap the trip to KY. They met with the director of their information design facility and were given a demo of EON software- it uses Boolean script for what to use for commands and is pretty straight forward.

Peter doesn't think it will be difficult to pick up. They have a full time modeler and programmer. He said it was interesting to see the EON workflow. It was pretty much everything they already knew, but they used more java script. They use Macs in their modeling program. They can dynamically update on their model. Eon is very responsive as far as adding in anything they need. Eon is very proactive in assisting any technical needs.

Peter thinks the software has a ton of potential. He thinks that the main question is why we should be using Eon instead of another software- as it can be done in Flash. However, it represents the potential of what we can do with the new software. He thinks we can get it up and running pretty quickly.

Sharon wanted to know if there is more knowledge of when the training would happen. Dave says he hasn't heard anything but it looks like it could be done here; it just depends on what people want it. Peter thinks as soon as possible. People are thinking in between terms- end of May. They are thinking the week after grades are turned in.

Fred's observations from his trip to KY:

Office configuration is standard. These facilities will be generally the same setup as any other training facility. There will always be a coder, a modeler, and a content person. The arrangement that they have is working.

What can this do that we can't do with current software? He says the only thing he can really see is a stereoscopic vision. The higher level programming is java script and basically no one who has ARTS 237 will be intimidated by this. The real time interactivity is very good, but they emphasize that it is based on the power of your processor and your video card. What you are looking at is a geo reader with shuttle mats which looks like what we would get in the perspective window of MAYA. It does not let you move a model. You can move components of the model. You cannot move the vertex which is problematic. This may be coming at some point but we will probably be limited. It is a software package that can be useful. It is something that is a technology in which a lot of people who do not have high-end skills can go in and work with. He doesn't think its worth what we are spending on it. We can put it to use and do good work with it as long as we keep the limitations in mind. But getting back to the instruction, he thinks the intellectual program that's important not EON. He thinks that when we bring EON in it

will bring in hundreds of students. Brian wants to use it in 3D and that may be useful, however Fred thinks it should be at the end of the program

Constance wants to know whether as new people to the program we will be instrumental in driving the program. Peter says that they need our help in developing content.

The funding for the program came from the president. The president wants to put us on the map in Michigan as the high-tech community college, if not for any institution for high-tech training.

The anticipation is that when faculty from other areas see a need for it they will learn it or they will consult with us or students and they would then be the content people. Our role is to train people to use it and have people take what they can from it. We may be looking at something that may become a workable software for businesses.

Fred thinks the design center is a natural place to be developing content. The idea that a math professors, etc., would be developing content is reasonable but maybe not aesthetically pleasing.

This is more of a MAIT Dept. thing than an Art Dept. Dave thinks that it would be great if we can start using this with DMAC. We would want to be the entertainment development center for the state if not nation with the EON package.

Brian says this is a small component, we are dealing with the convergence and we are going to move forward and see what develops.

Fred says the thing of the 3D is that there is a significant portion of your audience nauseated from vertigo, but having said that, one of the problems that Fred has is that to use it you have to come here. So, traditionally to have this 3D experience you have to be sitting in our facility. However, there is a process for someone who has the appropriate 3D glasses for the system they are using they can view it on a computer screen or TV. The quality is not as good, but it can still be pushed out onto the web. Brian said if you are doing this for a design class you can send out the glasses with a course pack and it can be online.

Fred says that he isn't sure there is an advantage to this type of learning other than giving a "wow factor" at first.

Brian thinks this is something that will eventually be in the design center and it could be of use for faculty, etc.

Fred can see that we can just generate a bunch of people who can do this and use this software system. However, having it integrated into a program where we take in traditional students or people who are retraining and putting them into work doing interactive training for a living is a totally different subject area.

Brian is thinking we start this off as a certificate primarily geared for retraining people who are coming in with experience or knowledge as drafters, modelers, engineering, etc. There will be a requirement for that basis and then do high-end training. Brian doesn't think we are ready to discuss that yet. We first have to figure out what we can do with EON and what we are going to do with our entire program.

Constance expressed that she would like to know what the college is expecting of us.

Dave: the college wants us to get trained in it, utilize it, but we don't need to reinvent the wheel with some things that are already 3D. It is the hope that 134 will be turned into an IMAX theater.

Brian- we are getting a new computer lab that is paid for not by us but by the college. We are not sure where it will be yet.

Fred thinks that the new computer lab and the new program is a publicity stunt for the college. They want the perception that we are a high tech center so he suggests that the first thing we do when we get the program is to do something that the college can use for publicity.

Peter would like to have a project at hand- projects we can use.

The software program is coming and we are getting 20 computers- we are not sure where they are going to go yet.

Dave emailed the dean to see if we can do the training the week of May 18th and then switch the days from the week before to that week.

Brian would like to define where we are going in the next couple years as a program.

Firstly, he tried to establish boundaries. We can't control the economy and that there are very little job opportunities for our grads. What we have had happen is that we lost the fine arts foundation and we will be teaching it out. As of now it is not be moving to ECE. It is dead and gone. The people who are affected by this will be advised to speak with Nancy Dryer and see if they can redevelop the courses within ECE.

Dave says that he knows that ECE is under mandate to extend enrollment and are in a good environment to look into taking over the fine arts program. If an art staff member would like to talk to Nancy Dryer about it they can look at taking up that option.

We will maintain the core foundation classes but everything else is gone. For years we have lacked program identity- the fact that we have all the digital art toys points us in the direction of high end digital training in the field. There is industry convergence and we need to react to this in what we teach and what we expect from our students. When we put all this together we have to ask where we go.

We need to create a map to integrate with other programs, figure out prerequisites etc, what are the potentials for employment, potentials for transfer, etc when our grads get out. We have to look at our program philosophy and pedagogy, also how do we want to define our occupational status? What is our rate of theory to software training? What are the graduate skill sets and core skill sets that we want people to have when they leave.

Brian thinks we remain with graphic design as an occupational designation. He has written down some possible degree titles: information design, animation and game design- something to transfer to Ferris. A motion design would be our multimedia degree with some tweaks to it- maybe adding a programming class with action script- which is just a variation of java script. And then there would still be the flash game design.

We have started looking for a consultant.

Fred has advisory committee member ideas- Karen Shaff, Chris Ford

We are being encouraged to push gaming. Again, Sharon thinks the problem there is programming. Fred suggests that it is time to revisit the 64 credit rule. Brian asked yesterday and we will not be allowed to do that. Dave suggests maybe we can look at the model differently to see what we could do with the 64 credits differently- like maybe a 64 credit info design degree, or a certificate of achievement. Sharon said that if we include the arts into the computer classes we will be different from the same old curriculum that every community college is having.

Fred says there will have to be some biology, physics, etc that people would have to be familiar with. Otherwise we will not produce people that fit well into the institutions that already exist.

Brian handed out packets to people, and on the last page we have to look at the key measurables; the input, and the output. He encourages people to look over and consider these and get back to him before the end of the semester to provide him with input to think over.

Brian will be writing letters to decommission the art program and create new courseware, and curriculum for the new program. He would like to get this formed over the summer and then next fall we can pick it apart. Sharon and Constance would like outlines for the next few weeks to keep them in the loop and help them understand. Brian says he can absolutely do that. They want to be updated over the summer so that they do not have to scramble

Meeting ended at 1:30 PM