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TO: Members of ITAC, COLD, ATAC, and CSU Faculty Development Council
FROM: Gerard L. Hanley, Senior Director
Academic Technology Support, CSU Office of the Chancellor
RE: System-wide Academic Technology Pilot Project
Date: October 15, 2001

There are many significant academic technology needs on CSU campuses. A pilot project to bring better academic technology products and services to campus faculty, staff, and students, to reduce campus costs of academic technologies, and to provide better guidance on selection and use of academic technologies has been initiated by the Academic Technology Support Department of the CSU Office of the Chancellor. A small team of CSU campus personnel has volunteered to develop processes for procuring and disseminating CSU system-wide academic technologies that will bring significant value to campuses. The System-Wide Academic Technology (SWAT) team met on September 25, 2001 to plan its activities.

The goals of the project include: 1) reducing campus and System costs for academic technology products through “volume” negotiations which campuses can voluntarily utilize; 2) acquiring system-wide leverage with vendors of academic technology products; 3) establishing a campus-accessible center of information and expertise on academic technology products/vendors/services through a CO-managed centralized repository (database) of information; 4) reducing, for academic technology products, campus assessment and procurement time, hence costs; 5) providing campus guidance for academic technology (teaching/learning) products/vendors/services and 6) support strategies for disseminating and educating campus communities about the availability and use of academic technologies. The intention of this project is to create processes for academic technology similar to those implemented by the CSU Libraries (SEIR-System-wide Electronic Information Resources and EAR -Electronic Access to Information Resources. See <http://www.calstate.edu/SEIR/seir.shtml>).

At the meeting of September 25, participants unanimously agreed that reliable processes for academic technology procurement and dissemination would be useful and beneficial to the CSU campuses. The positive value of system-wide procurement of academic technology has also been voiced at previous ATAC, ITAC, and CSU Faculty Development Council meetings. The SWAT team decided that it would be worthwhile to test the concepts by initiating discussions with academic software application vendors that provide real and immediate opportunities for cost savings for most, if not all the campuses. These vendors are from three categories of academic technology: 1) server-based applications such as WebCT and BlackBoard, 2) client or workstation-based applications such as Adobe and Macromedia product suites, and 3) application service providers such as Turnitin.com (a hosted instructor application for dealing with student plagiarism). SWAT feels that these categories will provide us with substantial information regarding important issues that

relate to the creation of an ongoing procurement infrastructure and the deployment of academic technology at CSU campuses.

Over the next three months, various SWAT members will meet with each of these companies to ascertain their interest in working with the CSU to develop non-exclusive, system-wide licensing agreements. The intention is to make available to all the campuses, on a voluntary basis, the opportunity to license products directly from these vendors, at terms substantially better than the conventional terms offered to any single campus, or even any group of three or four campuses.

SWAT will be consulting and collaborating with members of ITAC, ATAC, CSU Faculty Development Council, and COLD as it develops and tests its processes. At the end of the day, SWAT activities must provide significant, tangible, and acceptable benefits for CSU campuses. Your feedback will be critical guidance to this project. Sorel Reisman, professor of Information Systems at CSU Fullerton and Academic Technology Coordinator at CSUF's Faculty Development Center, will be leading this project and his efforts are being supported by the Chancellor's Office. Please contact him at sreisman@fullerton.edu if you have questions.

Thank you in advance for your help in finding ways to serve the needs of CSU faculty, staff, and students in more effective and efficient ways.

September 25 Meeting Participants

- Gerry Hanley – CSU Office of the Chancellor
- Sorel Reisman – CSU Fullerton
- Mark Thompson – CSU Stanislaus; ATAC member, CSU Academic Senator, Professor of English
- Norm Nicolson – CSU San Marcos; Dean, Instructional and Information Technology Services
- Bill Evans – CSU Chico; Manager, Distributed Learning Technologies
- Laura Sederberg – CSU Chico; Manager, Technology & Learning Program
- Ed McBride – CSU Long Beach; Director of Academic Computing Services
- Susan Kullmann Puz – CSU Pomona; Director, Faculty Computing Support Center
- Evan Reader- CSU Office of the Chancellor, Director, Systemwide Electronic Information Resources