System Information Technology Services

System Information Technology Services (SITS) provides secure information management and technology services to North Dakota University System students, faculty, staff, and state residents. SITS links academic and business services with the NDUS community, connecting users to the information and educational resources they need to accomplish their goals.

Access

NDUS Fee Estimator Makes Planning Easier for Students/Families

A Web-based tuition and fee estimator for the 11 North Dakota University System colleges and universities is available on the NDUS website.

The estimator allows users to make cost comparisons among the campuses and view a list of program and course fees at any one institution. It was created in response to Senate Bill 2351, which was approved by the 2011 Legislature.

“Students and parents often voice concern about the fees students pay and how these fees are used,” said Sen. Mac Schneider, D-Grand Forks, one of the SB 2351 sponsors. “This tuition and fee estimator provides additional accountability and transparency and will be valuable to people who want to estimate the total cost of higher education at our public colleges and universities. I commend the State Board of Higher Education for creating such an effective, user-friendly tool.”

Randall Thursby, NDUS chief information officer, said the Web-based application is easy to navigate and will provide useful information to parents and students. He says work on the site will continue so more detailed fee estimates can be provided.

The tuition and fee estimator is available at http://fees.ndus.edu/.

Did you know?

There are 943 State Board of Higher Education-approved programs offered by the 11 colleges and universities in academic year 2010, including diploma and certificate programs; associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees; and professional programs (law, medicine and pharmacy).

Innovation

NDUS Transitioning to New Anti-virus Software

Microsoft’s Forefront Endpoint Protection software soon will be protecting all North Dakota University System PCs from viruses and spam. Transition to the new software already is almost complete at most NDUS institutions. All systems need to be converted by March 31.

Forefront Endpoint Protection, also known as FEP, replaces the McAfee anti-virus software that had been provided by the University System. The decision to move to FEP was made after a thorough analysis found FEP to be stronger and more agile at detecting viruses compared with McAfee. ClamXav is the suggested anti-virus software for Macintosh computers.

For home computers, Microsoft’s Security Essentials is the recommended replacement for McAfee. The software is available at no cost for personal machines. Help for removing McAfee and installing Security Essentials can be found on the NDUS help desk website: http://helpdesk.ndus.edu/antivirus.htm.

Campus users should contact their local help desk for additional assistance.
Excellence

**Moving Ahead With Lecture Capture**

Lecture capture is an emerging technology that is quickly growing in popularity in higher education. As a result, a North Dakota University System lecture capture solution is one of the State Board of Higher Education’s Maximizing Results Through Efficiencies initiatives.

In short, lecture capture technologies record audio, video and other content. The recordings then are stored and retrieved readily from the Internet.

Within academics, lecture capture recordings are quite popular with distance learning courses, which integrate recordings with learning management systems. Lecture capture also is being used to augment traditional classroom instruction in a variety of ways, from recording demonstrations or processes to recording complete class periods for later review.

A University System solution offers the ability to enhance access and increase storage capabilities while decreasing storage costs. At the same time, each institution would manage and control its courses and content. A review of solutions is being evaluated.

A number of University System councils and representatives from all of the institutions have already reviewed the work that has been done and have been invited to provide further input. Ultimately, the State Board of Higher Education will review the final recommendations for action.

**Training Tidbit**

**Outlook Contact Groups Don’t Update Themselves**

Contact Groups in Outlook (formerly Distribution Lists) are not updated automatically when members in the contact group change their email address or other profile information. However, updating the information is quick and easy.

First, open the Contacts tab by clicking Contacts in the lower left portion of Outlook. Next, open the specific Contact Group to be updated. Finally, click on the “Update Now” icon in the Contact Group ribbon. This will update and save any changes individual members of the group may have made.

Contact Groups are an excellent way to send a message to multiple people with a single message. Contact Groups also work when requesting meetings or tasks. Groups can be any collection of people, such as an office, a location or a team.

**CAMPUS CORNER**

**Gordon B. Olson Library at Minot State University**

The Gordon B. Olson Library at Minot State University did not close during the historic 2011 flooding in Minot. The library and its staff, many of whom suffered significant personal losses in the flooding, refused to give in to the rising waters while continuing to serve the needs of the community.

As a member of the Federal Depository Library Program, the library provided a number of valuable resources in the flood fight of the century. One prime example was the depository’s maps, which were provided to the National Guard to help in the fight.

The Gordon B. Olson Library serves a diverse community of users, including students, faculty and staff at Minot State University. Beyond the campus, the library serves the Minot Air Force Base, four Native American Indian reservations in the area and the general public. The library also offers a robust website, where resources can be reviewed and accessed.

The library recently was praised by the Federal Depository Library Program, which disseminates U.S. governmental information to the American public through libraries across the nation: “A lot can be learned from a depository operation, such as the one at Gordon B. Olson Library. Rain or shine, the staff serves a vast and diverse community of users with the same dedication it has to the students, faculty and staff of Minot State University. This dedication, combined with the eagerness of the director and coordinator to promote and utilize the depository, makes this library one to look to for inspiration and ideas.”