



Webmasters' User Group

promoting Web publishing at Western Michigan University since 1999

Notes: 10/28/09

In Attendance

Nancy Kroes, OIT; Joe Fee, Eval Center; Ken Schaefer, Admissions; Anita Ludwig, Legal Affairs; Kevin West, Music; Nicole Crocker, Auxiliary Enterprises; Thomas Westrick, HCOB; Carolyn Fink, Student Affairs; Nancy Meister, Student Affairs; Cara LaLumia-Barnes, University Curriculum; Scott Puckett, Enrollment Management; Madeline McAuley, IME STEP; Eric Howes, Sindecuse; Larry Boekeloo, Sindecuse; Amy Brimmer, HR

Conferences

NancyK, Cindy Wagner & Deb Withee attended the HighEdWeb 2009 conference in Milwaukee. It was excellent. Conference podcasts and presentation slideshows are online from the conference page on the WUG site: www.wmich.edu/wug/

WUG Leadership

If you're interested in a leadership role, please volunteer at:
www.studentworld.wmich.edu/wug-survey.html

Social Media at WMU

Scott Puckett talked about Facebook and the Admissions Student Blog pilot project.

Facebook

The official WMU Facebook presence is www.facebook.com/wmich. It was started about 2 years but dormant until recently when Scott Puckett and Scott Hennessy took it over with help from several other administrators, including Tonya Durlach from University Relations. There are now over 8,000 "fans".

There is a lot of great interaction on the site, with lots of alumni and lots of potential students chiming in. Tonya routinely posts events. If anyone has an event that will appeal to the broad Facebook fan group, send it to Scott Pucket or Tonya Durlach for posting.

If anyone already has, or wants to set up, their own Facebook group for their department or area, let Scott know so it can be linked from the official presence. Do be aware that you cannot just set up a presence on Facebook and leave it idle – you must be prepared to watch it, even over weekends, for "comments".

Student Blogs

Admissions became the pilot project for blogs, <http://www.wmich.edu/admissions/blogs.html>, when they partnered with OIT and downloaded and installed Wordpress into their www account. Behind the Wordpress install is a MySQL database. Scott modified the style sheet of a standard WP template to make it have more of a WMU look.

Students were selected from the student ambassadors, a blog was set up for each one and they post when/what they see fit. So far it is working well and the students are excited about the opportunity. The blogs were set up with the students having the role of author so they may write their post and immediately post it themselves, without approval. Scott is the administrator.

NancyK cautioned this is a pilot project and OIT is not ready for it to be opened up to other departments at this time. WUG may be a second pilot for the upcoming new WMU template tutorial.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, Nov. 18, in the Stewart Tower conference room, from 10-11:30 a.m. (***note time change for this meeting and it is a week earlier than normal due to the Thanksgiving holiday the following week***). Topic will be writing for the Web.