

Title of Session: TI Festival 2005 Closure Meeting

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: TI Festival Group Room

BjB: I hate to be a party pooper, but I think we should officially get our meeting started, if that's ok?

BjB: I posted the statistics from the festival and my final report here in this room

DianneA: Got those, thanks BJ

BjB: has everyone had an opportunity to read these documents?

LeanneMM thinks she just looked at them

DavidWe wants to congratulate Bj on a very professional looking final report

KeikoS is getting right now.

DianneA: I have scanned rather than deeply analyzed

BjB: and if you have, do you have any additions or comments to the information.

DavidWe thinks Bj did an excellent job summarizing the TI Summer Festival

DianneA: yes David, Australian preference

BjB: Emily felt that we shouldn't have a groups poster session, but I thought it was a great beginning

BjB: and made us take a better look at how groups are used in Tapped In

DavidWe: I think it was FANTASTIC that the U. of Houston folks contributed their time

LeanneMM: Unfortunately, I didn't go to any posters, except WiA

BjB agrees with David.

BjB: I hope they will be able to do the same thing next year

DianneA: David, did the TUT involve more than Mary and Yvonne?

DavidWe: That's the kind of thing that MUST happen for Tapped In to grow, IMHO

BJB . o O (remember when we had Wisconsin students doing stuff like that?)

DavidWe . o O (King Tut?)

BJB: TUT is a group of teachers using technology that Mary leads

DavidWe: I think there were a number of University of Houston students participating

DianneA: agrees that more active involvement of others in relevant activities helps build experience and commitment

BJB: the TUT students were at the cafe helpdesk throughout the festival

DavidWe: One (perhaps, Yvonne) was super

KeikoS: For poster session, we should probably think about how to incorporate into certificate...

BJB: Yvonne did most of the work for the scavenger hunt

KeikoS: ... more efficiently and obviously

BJB nods to Keiko. That or maybe have people vote for a group?

DianneA: I understand Yvonne and Mary to be more 'staff' than 'students', hence my inquiry

LeanneMM: I have to say, I thought the scavenger hunt was a great idea for getting used to the site and the kinds of info available

DavidWe: Whatever we can do to encourage that group to continue its involvement with TI and perhaps to encourage other groups of student teachers...

KeikoS nods to BJB, definitely homework for next year

BJB: Yvonne is a student. Mary is the professor. Yvonne did a lot of the work

DianneA: BJ, are you of a mind to continue to 'plan' so that there is no substantial competition between sessions?

DavidWe: We should provide some sort of web page summary of their involvement as something to point other teacher educators to

BJB: unless we get a lot more volunteers, Dianne, I think that not having the events overlap is easier on us all

BjB: plus it gives us some breathing space to develop things like the scavenger hunt and poster sessions

BjB: good suggestion, David...

DianneA: I agree it is easier, but it does limit expansion somewhat

BjB: how about asking Mary to be a guest speaker during one of the Teacher Ed Faculty Forums

BjB: and the purpose of expansion?

JeffC joined the room.

LeanneMM: HI Jeff

DavidWe waves to Jeff

JeffC: hi

BjB . o O (I'm open to having more events scheduled)

BjB: if it serves the purpose of the festival

KeikoS bows to BJB for the wonderful report

KeikoS . o O (just read it thru)

KeikoS bows to Jeff

BjB: thanks, Keiko

BjB: another thing to consider about expanding...

BjB: is that we had a rather limited number of participants and when we had overlapping events, participation in both events dropped

LeanneMM: BJ, is it worth sending notice to all groups early on, to a) clean up their homepage and b) solicit participation in the poster session?

BjB looks to Jeff for input on that

KeikoS . o O (humm)

DianneA: if there is to be any expansion, then I would also look to the expansion including 'development' about understanding of the site. This year, Jeff's extended Collaboration Group activity, the group poster and the scavenger hunt constituted activities that expanded and developed understanding of the site and its possible use

DavidWe: good point, Dianne

BjB nods to Dianne. I think we can work on the scavenger hunt and the poster session to make them a lot more effective

KeikoS nods to BJB

BjB: perhaps the scavenger hunt could be part of the pre-festival activities

DianneA: I am not sure how much we might want to go beyond that in the next Festival; but for return visitors I would also want to have something 'new' for a Festival

LeanneMM: One thing I also got from comments, is that people learned not just from the speaker, but from each other. Could there be live discussion forums for sharing ideas?

BjB smiles...we originally had thought to do that, Leanne

DianneA: I think Scavenger Hunt to be Pre-Festival is a step in the right direction

LeanneMM: For example, they could be timed at alternate times to a presentation on that topic. e.g. math

LeanneMM: or perhaps follow the topic

DianneA: so that we could have Tips and Tours and Scavenger Hunt combined to gather one participation credit

LeanneMM: so the discussion could continue...

LeanneMM . o O (sorry about the confusing thread here)

BjB nods to Leanne. That happened with Erica and the Star programs...

BjB . o O (or at least the opportunity for it to happen existed)

DianneA: I agree with Leanne about wanting to have discussion develop, but I haven't yet seen how that is accomplished

DianneA: There is much enthusiasm on the day, but persistence with follow through is patchy

BjB: Jeff, do you feel that was a good way to extend the discussion about the Star programs?

BjB wonders if Jeff is multitasking

DianneA: Bj can you elaborate a bit more for me, please

BjB: we have a couple threads going here.

LeanneMM: well, could you have a secondary schedule of discussion forums that starts an hour later in the day, so that each topic follows the presentation just given? Then those interested could move on to the discussion room.

BjB: Leanne suggested that there be opportunities to move to the next level of discussion about a topic...

KeikoS: That is an interesting suggestion, Leanne

BjB: which is what we talked about at the beginning planning sessions for this festival if I remember correctly, Dianne

BjB . o O (it was Dianne's suggestion)

DianneA nods, and so what did Erica do?

BjB: the problem is that there just isn't enough time in one day to do it all

BjB: Erica didn't have many people at the second part of her discussion

DianneA agrees with BJ in principle

DavidWe: TI online conference to extend over more than one day?

BjB: because people wanted to go to the other events

KeikoS 's eyes go wider

LeanneMM: BJ, do you have stats or any idea, of whether participants come and stay the whole day?

DavidWe KNOWS that people don't come for the whole day

BjB: maybe we should make the festival extend longer, but for fewer hours per day?

DavidWe: That's a lot to ask of anyone who isn't staff or dedicated volunteer

BjB: Leanne, I didn't do those stats, but my impression was that this is what most people did

DavidWe: Like a normal conference - or even have time-relevant sessions for people in different parts of the world

DianneA: It is a question of how do we get them to come back again, whenever it is held

DianneA: I don't know that any conference organisers have the answer to that

BjB: we could focus on science, math, humanities.....one topic per day?

DavidWe likes interdisciplinary things, too

BjB: think we could get enough people to offer to lead discussions?

JeffC: I thought that the extended sessions worked well (the star sessions etc.)... of course there's a problem when you have multiple sessions... but... there is of course a trade-off.

LeanneMM: but there would be multidisciplinary topics that all would want - would we expect the presenters to do repeat talks?

DianneA: BJ, if you were considering something like Festival, with a clean sheet of paper ... would you suggest Festival, or something else?

DavidWe: What's the goal?

BjB: big question, Dianne...

JeffC: I'd like to see something happen during the school year... when we have more attention of the teachers... perhaps on a weekend.

DianneA: and anyone else to answer that

BjB: good focus question, David

DavidWe . o O (...if we are starting from scratch)

KeikoS: Good point, Jeff

BjB: Jeff, a fall festival has been suggested

BjB: the problem is that people are in school

JeffC: cool

DavidWe: Some regular (4 times a year - 6 times a year) event day?

JeffC: not on weekends

DianneA: I am inclined to think that it would be useful to do our thinking about what do we want to do for TI by such endeavours, and work as if from scratch

BjB: ahhh....now there's an idea

DavidWe: We can have it on Plumday

LeanneMM: ?

DavidWe: New day of the week, no one can say they are busy since the day doesn't exist

BjB: Dianne, if we want to start from scratch...

DavidWe wonders what the others think of THAT idea

KeikoS: I always thought summer festival was to INTRODUCE newbies to TI

LeanneMM wonders what world David is in

BjB: then the first thing we want to establish is WHY HAVE A FESTIVAL?

DavidWe . o O (New Jersey, Leanne)

DavidWe agrees with Keiko's thought

BjB also agrees with Keiko. I think we've moved beyond that though

KeikoS nods to BJB

BjB . o O (that was the purpose of the original festival concept)

DianneA: so Keiko, one measure of success might be how many newbies, and how many newbies come then to a scheduled session in the next month

DavidWe: I think we need to have something to PUMP UP the people who are NOT newbies

BjB: but this festival showed that it wasn't the newbies who attended

KeikoS: Dianne, yeah, if we go with original concept

KeikoS nods to David and BJB

DianneA: so established members come to get a taste of something new/ different?

LeanneMM: I think if anything, people who weren't newbies, per se, were introduced to new groups and then joined the groups that interested them

BJB: let's stop a sec and look at the current TI population...

KeikoS looks at the presentation screen

DianneA grins

DavidWe hopes the projector is not broken

BJB: it's fairly polarized around a specific group or around K-12 students

JeffC: white... female... American

BJB: or attending events for a specific discipline

BJB: This is duplicating the isolated and isolating classrooms that TI was intended to overcome

DavidWe is confused

DavidWe: What is duplicating the isolation?

KeikoS: Oh, I think what BJB means is...

BJB: polarizing members into only attending specific events

KeikoS: we wanted to promote interdisciplinary nature?

DianneA: so we come to get away from isolation, but still find ourselves generating isolation and fragmentation?

BJB nods to Dianne...

DavidWe: Well, that would be wonderful, but we ARE, realistically, an adjunct to what teachers (TI members) do on a regular basis

DavidWe hopes that it isn't isolating to be in a Tapped In discussion

BJB: but a FESTIVAL should bring everyone together

BjB: and it should be FUN

DavidWe nods

KeikoS: Hummm

BjB: can we do more things like the scavenger hunt?

DavidWe: I think Jeff's efforts to get people to think about Online Collaboration suggest a VERY TOUGH row to hoe

JeffC: I dunno... I liked the idea of having synchronous sessions... hoped to bring more people in. The major problem with my sessions was that a number of presenters wanted to use outside multimedia sites... and there were connectivity issues.

BjB: maybe we want to do mini-festivals throughout the year

KeikoS nods to Jeff, I see.

DianneA: It would be easier to plan different events for different purposes than try and make one event be all things to all people

BjB nods to Dianne

KeikoS: More focus, more result, more events

BjB agrees with Keiko

LeanneMM: But I still think you need some multidisciplinary stuff for everyone as well

BjB: something like Jeff's Collaboration series would work well for this

KeikoS nods and admires Jeff's Collaboration series

DavidWe agrees with Keiko

BjB: one thing we have to be careful of is scheduling

DianneA: Three events of four hours would match the present Festival commitment for hours

BjB: Ti is dead after the first of the year for about 2 or three weeks

DianneA: Four events of four hours would extend present commitments

BjB: and participation is nil at term breaks

BjB: but, if we go for weekends that might not be such a huge factor

LeanneMM: BJ: only until the new crop of WebHeads gets here!

KeikoS tries to think

DianneA: so is highest participation around the middle of the term?

BjB: either the beginning or the middle

BjB: but then teachers are busy doing grades

DianneA: and do we want to compete with highest natural participation, or try to encourage something else in out of busy times?

BjB: that's why I said that a weekend would be good

DavidWe: For me the goal is to have Tapped In act like a virtual coffee house with staff behind the counter...

LeanneMM listens to David

DavidWe: Not only can they serve tea, coffee, hot chocolate, but they also seem to know what's going on with other members of the staff, when things are happening and who best to contact for particular topics

BjB . o O (that sounds like helpdesk)

LeanneMM: That sounds like a helpdesk job, David

BjB smiles at Leanne

LeanneMM notices the echo in this room

DavidWe: And for educators to understand that they might drop in to have a quiet moment, to think, to read, to look in Jeff's list of bookmarks or to organize their own thoughts

DavidWe: Right, but it is getting the idea of the HelpDesk job into the heads of other educators

LeanneMM doesn't get it

DavidWe: A very nice guy, Abdullah, I think, who teaches in Istanbul, volunteered to do HelpDesk over the weekend

DavidWe: That it is a resource that can REALLY HELP THEM with ideas, contacts, resources - more experienced educators

DianneA: Having a special focus event every three months then could be something to direct interested parties to, without having to wait for a once a year occasion

BjB: do you want to think about a mini festival for October and then another in the spring?

BjB: maybe have a "meet the volunteers" event?

KeikoS: Humm, mini

LeanneMM: how does that fit with school terms, BJ?

JeffC: K-12 Day

BjB nods to Jeff...good suggestion

DavidWe: student teacher Day?

BjB nods to David...also a good idea

BjB: Leanne, I think it would work ok

BjB . o O (not scheduled during the major holidays)

BjB: I'd even break down K-12, Jeff, to K-5 or 6 and 7-12

DavidWe . o O (more focus)

BjB: anyone want to pick a date?

KeikoS: Well if we are doing student teacher day...

BjB listens to Keiko

KeikoS: maybe we should ask whoever does that in terms of schedule?

KeikoS: I have no idea when they start student teaching and so forth

BjB: we can post to the Teacher Ed Faculty Forum group

BjB: and the preservice teacher group

KeikoS: Wonderful

BjB: I'll contact them and see what they suggest.

BjB . o O (I'm thinking a date in October)

BjB: whew! Here I thought our work was done and now we've just made more work!

BjB: are we moving in the right direction?

KeikoS grins to BJB

DavidWe: the way it usually goes

DianneA agrees with a date in October, and then review what was involved, and what response before planning any more and considering whether we want to morph Festival

BjB nods to Dianne

BjB: you want this first mini fest to focus on student teachers and ed faculty?

KeikoS: collaboration?

KeikoS: You had grade divisions, too

DavidWe thinks the concept of collaboration should be a theme of all the events

LeanneMM agrees with David

BjB nods to Keiko. Those were all suggestions for the individual mini fests

BjB: yes, collaboration is an integral part of all the events

DianneA: If we focus on student teachers and ed faculty then we can perhaps pose the question of how to use TI to develop more effective collaboration ? ..

DavidWe: that would be great, Dianne - big challenge

KeikoS: Oct is not too far away

LeanneMM: Also, if that is our focus, we can target groups in that area for participation eg. poster sessions

KeikoS: That is the only concern I might have.

BjB: future mini fests could be K-6, 7-12, etc

KeikoS: Something we are half ready already...

BjB: late October

BjB: let me get with Mary and Jan Naher-Snowden

BjB: and see if we can arrange a planning meeting within the next couple of weeks

DavidWe nods

BjB: any other comments, questions, suggestions?

LeanneMM: meantime, should we also look at the existing groups and divvy them up so we cover some of each throughout the year?

BjB: good idea, Leanne. We would want to look for groups we should add to the TI groups lobby

LeanneMM: right, that's what I was thinking

LeanneMM: Like, where does WiA come in?

BjB: and then focus on them throughout the month

LeanneMM: ahhh, great plan BJ!

KeikoS: Ahh, that is a good idea

KeikoS: Featured Group of the Month

LeanneMM hands Keiko a gold star

KeikoS bows deeply

DavidWe: A big star for Texas!

BjB: the group could be featured in the newsletter too

LeanneMM smiles at David and Keiko

BjB: WIA would go with a Languages mini fest?

DavidWe: seems sensible

LeanneMM: I guess the group owner would be the contact person, if we wanted to do an update

BjB . o O (language arts, esl, efl, foreign languages)

KeikoS: Can languages alone hold one?

LeanneMM: right, BJ

KeikoS: Oh, maybe we could

BjB: a new Spanish group was just put on the August calendar for Saturday

KeikoS: Is that right?

LeanneMM: really? Spanish?

BjB: and I know some people have inquired about French

KeikoS: Wow

JeffC: Yes... I helped him set up the group.

DavidWe: Bien sûr

BjB . o O (August 27)

KeikoS claps to Jeff

DianneA: can we change the name to mini-expo, and leave Festival in case we need to return to that

BjB: right, Jeff

LeanneMM: cool---hijole

KeikoS nods to Dianne

BjB smiles. Good idea, Dianne.

BjB bangs the gavel on the virtual desk and adjourns the meeting unless anyone else has anything to add?

LeanneMM: Just let us know when the next meeting is, BJ

DianneA nods with Leanne's comment

BjB: I'll post to the discussion board here

LeanneMM feels so good, she gives hugs all around

DianneA waves au revoir for now

BjB gives a group hug...you all are wonderful!

DianneA left the room (signed off).

JeffC left the room.

KeikoS hugs everybody

LeanneMM: adios, hasta la proxima