**Optical Test Scoring Action Team Report**

21 April 2010

The Action Team was tasked in Fall 2009 to investigate possibilities for replacement and/or upgrades to IUP’s outdated test scoring and survey system. Since November 2009, the Action Team compiled a list of possible vendors, invited vendor(s) to give demonstrations on their products, created a faculty survey regarding the use and satisfaction of the current system, and chose a product/vendor for an upgrade. The Action Team is also working with IT personnel to enhance the back-end, customer support issues and to make the system more attractive and user-friendly in the future. The Action Team also coordinated with Human Resources and APSCUF to ensure that any changes to the current faculty evaluation processes would be acceptable to all parties.

The faculty survey indicated that most were satisfied with the processing of tests for scoring, however there were several suggestions for improvement in several areas, including: weighted questions, penalties for incorrect answers, multiple exam versions, test scoring reports, drop-off and pick-up procedures. Faculty who do not use the service regularly cite pedagogical issues rather than their dislike of technological issues at the testing scoring center. The Action Team feels that the upgrades suggested below will meet the majority of those suggestions for improvement.

One on-site demonstration by Scantron was given in January, and a second webcast-demo by Scantron and Remark was given in late March. After viewing all of the possible choices in software and hardware, the Action Team felt that the Remark software offers the best combinations of usability, reporting, and cost compared to Scantron’s Class Climate and ParScore/ParTest systems.

Remark software offers much of the same capability as Scantron’s ParScore system ($1575) and will allow for both test scoring and faculty evaluation scoring (as a survey) with improved functionality and reporting options over what IUP currently uses. Additional attractive features, such as optical capture of student hand-written comments and unique barcodes, are available with Class Climate. However, the increase in cost ($42,195 license) is not seen as a wise investment at this time.

The pricing schemes are shown below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Product** | **Description** | **Quantity** | **Price** |
| iNSIGHT 4ES / 2308  YP5P0099 | * Duplex scanning * 100 page Auto Document Feeder * Printer * Pencil read * Select stacker * Dust cover * Scanning speed: 2,200 sheets/hour | 1 | $7,175 |
| Freight and installation | $330 / scanner | 1 | $330 |
| 1-year on-site maintenance | Zone A (zip code 15705) | 1 | $353 |
| **Subtotal (equipment)** | **Option 1 - scanner** |  | **$7,858** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Class Climate Level 1,000 License | Course Evaluation System License – Includes Server Software, VividForms Form Reading Engine, one ScanStation.  Level 1,000 license - includes all users from 1 to 1,000.  Includes 1 year of support & software upgrades (both minor and major) and shipping. | 1 | $42,195 |
| Additional Scan Station (only needed if using more than 1 scanner) | The quantity of the scanners that you have to use to physically scan the volume of paper required. | 1 | $835 |
| Class Climate Installation | Online assistance with installing Class Climate. This service allows for up to three hours of assistance via the Internet. Client must have Internet access and a representative of the IT department must be available during the installation. This service includes installing the server, database, reader, and ScanStation software on a single PC. A remote ScanStation may also be included as part of the process. | 1 | $600 |
| Class Climate On-site Training | Scantron Professional Development provides two 6-hour days of on-site training in the set-up and operation of Class Climate. Price includes trainer travel expenses. | 1 | $4,295 |
| **Subtotal (Class Climate)** |  | **1** | **$47,925** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Par Score License – single workstation | ParScore Single Workstation Test scoring and grade book software. Single workstation version. Windows 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP -based. Includes one year of technical support and freight. | 1 | $1,575 |
| ParScore - On-Line Training | Scantron Professional Development provides one 3-hour day of on-line training in the operation of the ParScore software. | 1 | $595 |
| Par Score On-site Training | Scantron Professional Development provides one 6-hour day of on-site training in the operation of the ParScore software. Price includes trainer travel expenses. | 1 | $2,500 |
| **Subtotal (ParScore)** |  |  | **$4,670** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Remark License – single workstation** | **Remark Single Workstation version Includes one year of technical support.** | **1** | **$1,050** |

The Action Team and personnel in IT recommend purchasing two scanning systems to meet the heavy demands for scoring at the end of semester and during the faculty evaluation period. Feedback from the faculty survey seems to show an **increase in test scoring use**, particularly in the past few years as class sizes were increased. A second system also serves as a back-up.

The following software and equipment is proposed (Mar 2010 quote):

iNSIGHT 4/2308 optical scanner 2 @$7858

Remark License – single workstation 2 @$1050

PC to run software (estimate) 2 @$1000

**TOTAL $19,816**

Remark will scan bubble sheets that can be custom-made to look exactly like our current faculty evaluation sheets and exam sheets. These are printed and sold by Remark. It is expected that each Department would then purchase these sheets through Central Stores in the way that they currently purchase scan sheets. Faculty feedback from the survey indicates several suggestions for improved test scoring options, such as weighted questions, penalties for incorrectly answered questions, and multiple exam versions, etc. Customized test scoring sheets can be created to meet these needs with the upgraded functionality in Remark beyond what IUP has currently.

The Action Team expects to work closely with IT in developing improved scoring sheets, clearer submission instructions, and more efficient procedures for dropping off/returning exams.

**Formal Recommendation to ACPAC**

The Optical Test Scoring Action Team recommends the purchase of two optical scanners and two PCs with Remark licenses to upgrade IUP’s current test scoring capabilities. (The total estimated cost is $19,816).