

Computing Advisory Committee Meeting

July 21, 1998

Present: Al Allen, Pierre Barrette, David Blakesley, Patty Cosgrove, Skip Hardenburg, Duke Koch, David Shinn, Jackie Smith, Carolyn Snyder, Chris Svec

1. Skip Hardenburg (Oracle Project Director) presented a status report on the Oracle project. There is a new contract with Oracle which includes an unlimited site license for all Oracle database products, and for Oracle Webserver products. The license includes all faculty, staff and students. There is also a 50% discount for any other Oracle products. IT will be working on methods of distribution for these products.

There is also an Academic Initiative Program in which faculty and students can be trained in the use of the Oracle family of products and can receive certification for taking the training.

It is expected that all fiscal officers will be using Oracle by January 1, 1999. There are minimum computer specifications, which can be found on the Oracle web page: . Virtually any modern computer (minimum Pentium 90 or Mac/UNIX equivalent) will suffice. In addition every user will need some minimal training, and those with fiscal responsibility will need to sign a form indicating that responsibility.

2. Al Allen (Director of IT) talked about the installation of Internet connections at Thompson Point. By mid-August all buildings will be connected, and every dorm room will have the capability of an internet connection, with the possibility of multiple connections in individual rooms if the students so desire. There will be an additional charge for connected rooms.

For the East Campus dorms several different methods are being investigated for connecting rooms. An immediate project is to make 56K modems available for students in that area, but faster connections are being explored, including 1Meg modems and DSL lines.

The Carbondale campus is very close to the purchase of a site license for the virus protection software package Dr. Solomon, and there will very shortly be a Year2000 plan website available. In addition, there is a campus-wide e-mail directory service almost ready for prime time.

Patti Cosgrove, IT director of labs announced that a number of buildings are being connected this summer. These buildings include Quigley, Lawson, Lingle Hall, Allyn Hall, some parts of the Student Center, some parts of Engineering, Shryock, University News Service, and Lindegren Hall. In addition, there have been major upgrades to the infrastructure and computers of all IT-owned labs. A list of current equipment and software can be found on a link on the Computing on Campus webpage.

3. Geoff Nathan, Chair of the Committee will be attending Chancellor Argersinger's staff meeting in a couple of weeks, and he solicited issues that the committee wanted brought up to the Chancellor. Issues that were suggested included additional wiring of classrooms on campus, the technology fee, ensuring that all faculty have adequate computers on their desks, hosting a national technology conference, and making consistent policies on the responsibility for infrastructure installation. Lastly, the possibility of quantity purchases of soft- and hardware should be investigated.

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