Computing Advisory Committee

Meeting of August 16, 2000

Those attending: JP Dunn, Jim Duggan, Ruth Bernhardt, Susan Logue (for Jim Fox), Duke Koch, Dick Steffen, Phil Chu, Bruce Fisher (visitor), Geoff Nathan (recorder)

Geoff began with a report on the status of the Technology Fee monies, which are ready to be distributed. Chancellor Jackson has asked that the funds be held until the ten-day enrollment count, to ensure that the entire set of funds would be available. It is anticipated that information on the final fund distribution will be available on a website, as soon as the final amount to be distributed is known. There was a total of 1.6 million dollars in requests, for an estimated $830,000 in funds available, so the committee was forced to do some triage. As a result, everyone who requested funds received some, but no request was funded completely.

Since there is much overlap in items being requested, all purchasing will be handled centrally, and Don Olson will coordinate the effort.

Additionally, Geoff conducted a survey of Academic Affairs in search of currently existing site licenses, and has received a fairly complete list, which he will attach to the minutes as an Excel file.

The e-mail subcommittee has met once, and will meet again next week to continue discussion on problems that have been raised by the administrators of the University's main POP server. The Human Subjects committee will add some requirements to be given out to those proposing to use e-mail surveys, including listing an e-mail address for the committee on the consent form and offering anyone who receives a mass mailing the ability to remove their name from the list.

Geoff distributed a draft of an operating paper for the Committee. A number of suggestions were made for modifications, including the addition of a Law School representative. Since not all representatives are 'elected' it was suggested that the term 'reappointment' be used instead. Geoff will send a revised draft to the committee as an attachment, and will ask for further discussion at the next meeting.

Bruce Fisher announced that the College of Business is considering providing a laptop to every student, and was wondering if there were any interest elsewhere on campus for such a program. A survey of Business students showed that 76% of students polled would be willing to pay as much as $800 per year for a laptop computer that they could keep at the end of their program. Apparently the Law School and the College of Agriculture have discussed this issue as well. This question will also be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, and, in addition, Geoff will circulate a recent New York Times article on the subject.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 19 at 8 A.M. Committee members with conflicts should contact the list immediately.