Computing Advisory Committee

DRAFT

SIUC Computing Advisory Committee
Thursday, October 23, 2003
Administrative Offices Conference Room, Morris Library

In attendance: Bob Baer, Ruth Bernhardt, David Carlson, Howard Carter, Tom Furby, Stephanie Graves (secretary), Duke Koch, James LeBeau, Don Olson, Don Rice, Marc Riedel, Amy Sileven, Lichang Wang, Neil Young

David Carlson opened the meeting at 2:00 pm. An agenda was distributed.

Continued Discussion of Computer Use Policies – Don Olson
At the September meeting of the CAC, members asked that they be given the time to talk to their various constituencies about the viability of the proposed computer use policy. Amy Sileven reported that her constituency (GPSC) continued to have problems with the policy. There seemed to be general agreement from the committee that the policy was unacceptable in its current state. Don Olson suggested that the committee could decide to table the policy.

Dean Carlson reminded the committee that attorneys brought the computer use policy forth for SIU and the President’s Office. If CAC did not pursue changes to the policy, would the policy show up on a Board of Trustees agenda? Don Olson said the policies existence was in response to an audit that suggested that SIU needed to increase IT security. He also reminded the committee that it was up to each SIU campus to either accept or reject the policy. He believed that if the policy were tabled by CAC, it would be forgotten.

The committee agreed to table the computer use policy and not pursue it further.

Public Act 93-0306 and Computer Cannibalization – David Carlson
Dean Carlson distributed an email from Bonnie Stoffel, Property Control. The email states that departments must obtain written permission from Central Management Services to cannibalize computers and/or remove internal drives and memory before sending them to CMS. Hard drives should also be wiped and software removed from the processing unit. These requirements are part of Public Act 93-0306. Ms. Stoffel asked in her email if CAC would be interested in discussions regarding the best way to implement these procedures.

Don Olson thought that several meetings across campus had occurred to discuss the issue of cannibalization. Amy Sileven wondered if the implementation of these rules were targeted at SIUC for a specific purpose or if the CMS was now requiring all campuses to comply. In addition, why is this public act in place, for security or so that CMS can sell the computers for more of a profit? A question was raised about how Property Control would enforce the policy. The committee thought that the department that had the computer listed on their inventory would be held responsible if the machine was cannibalized. Neil Young wondered if the campus could obtain blanket permission to cannibalize a large number of machines.

Everyone agreed that more information and clarification was needed. Dean Carlson offered to find the text of Public Act 93-0306 and post it to the CAC listserv. He also offered to contact Bonnie Stoffel and see if she was willing to come speak to the committee about the issue. The committee agreed to revisit the issue after they had more information.

Update of Undergraduate Student Tech Fee – David Carlson
The committee to review the applications for the Undergraduate Student Tech Fee has been established. Both Dean Carlson and Don Olson will serve on that committee. The committee will meet on Tuesday, October 28th. It took a bit of time to get the student representatives appointed. Each representative should have received a binder of the proposals. The committee will discuss the proposals, rate them in order of importance, and then begin deciding how much money will go to each.
Don Olson reported that $1.5M in proposals had been received. The committee only has half of that amount to allot to the proposals. There were fewer proposals this year than last. Don expects that some money can be saved, as in previous years, by combining the various orders requested by each proposal to get a bulk discount (i.e. Dell). The discount received in the past has left up to $60,000 of money remaining. If a proposal is not funded, they may receive funds from the discount or recycled machines once the campus labs receive the new machines.

Neil Young and Don Olson agreed that operating procedures for the student tech fee committee needed to be addressed. Dean Carlson suggested that CAC receive a report on the status of the proposals. CAC has traditionally received a report and Don agreed that this was a good practice to continue.

General Report from Don Olson

Don had several announcements.

November 5th is Internet 2 day on campus. Activities will be held at the Student Center most of the day. Guest speaker Dr. Charles Young will speak at the Carbondale to Cyberdale breakfast meeting and at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Student Center. Dr. Young is an Internet 2 specialist and earthquake expert.

The university has received a $1M grant for the development of a portal. The grant is from Oracle. The portal will not replace Saluki Net, but will allow customization of homepages. Approximately 52 portlets will be available, ranging from news, sports, weather, and even Fedex sites. Don hopes to interface the portal with Information Technology. IT will also investigate the development of a WebCT interface for classes and professors. The system will also generate email lists and calendaring functions. The plan is to get the portal up and running and keep adding features over a five-year period.

The committee also discussed Oracle. Don Olson recently attended a meeting where colleagues were discussing their dissatisfaction with SCT. Even though the campus may be unsatisfied with Oracle, Don is unsure of if better options exist. Oracle is creating a new version, 11.1, which should be available next year. Don is currently working with a group that is to report to the President’s Office regarding the feasibility of remaining with Oracle. This group has gathered to discuss Oracle issues in the past. The CAC committee did not have a role in this decision in the past. Don offered to bring more information to CAC at a later date.

Your Items

Dean Carlson had several questions for Don Olson.

He first asked if Don could give a report on the status of the various wireless projects on campus. Don reported no new wireless projects had been started. The Law School, College of Education, and College of Business projects have been completed. The Library and Student Center projects are still in progress. IT has also investigated the viability of wireless antennas that could be place across campus. This would allow wireless access from almost anywhere on campus. Unfortunately, this is an expensive undertaking and students would need to pay roughly $2.00 per month for the service. Don will bring a full report on wireless projects to the next CAC meeting.

Dean Carlson also inquired about pay-per-page printing on campus. Most labs currently charge $0.10 per page to print. Neil Young, representative for USG, stated that this was expensive and most students that he had spoken to do their printing from home to avoid the fees. Dean Carlson suggested that some campuses give students the first 50-100 pages of printing for free and then begin to charge. Don Olson said he would put together a report from IKON and poll his IT listserv to see how other universities are handling printing issues. He will present this information at the next CAC meeting.

Dean Carlson inquired if the committee had encountered the use of key disks in their respective labs. The Library has received some requests for the use of these disks. Library computers are locked down and do not allow the use of these disks. The committee discussed the trend to use such technology as opposed to floppy disks. They also discussed the trend of PDAs and wireless technology in the classroom.