

**DRAFT**

SIUC Computing Advisory Committee  
Monday, March 22, 2004 – 10:00 am  
Administrative Offices Conference Room, Morris Library

In attendance: Alice Noble-Allgire, Bob Baer, Ruth Bernhardt, David Carlson, Howard Carter, Tom Furby, Stephanie Graves (secretary), Duke Koch, Don Olson, Amy Sileven, Bonnie Stoffel, Chih-Fang Wang, Lichang Wang, and Neil Young

David Carlson opened the meeting at 10:00 am. An agenda was distributed.

General Report from Don Olson

Don Olson reported several general items for Information Technology.

A new firewall has arrived but is not yet installed. Don is working with IT's new staff member to investigate the best way to install the firewall. The firewall will hopefully catch more incoming viruses.

There are two projects that are in progress for the remainder of the fiscal year. First, Don is investigating the purchase of the commercial Sendmail email system. Sendmail is one of the top three e-mail systems currently available. The University currently uses the freeware version of Sendmail. The freeware is becoming taxed by heavy use and does not offer many of the amenities of the commercial version. Don reported that IT has received requests from many of the academic deans and other departments on campus to generate mass e-mails. Only the commercial Sendmail will facilitate mass e-mailing. It also comes with MacAfee. The hardware will cost approximately \$120,000. The software could cost as much as \$280,000. The hardware would need to be upgraded even if IT continued to use the freeware Sendmail product. Annual fees for the commercial Sendmail product are assessed on the number of users. Don estimated that the University would pay approximately \$100,000 per year. Don reported that the last virus cost the IT department roughly \$200,000 in staff time and equipment. It is his hope that the virus software for the commercial Sendmail would dramatically decrease the number of viruses that IT encounters.

Bob Baer asked if the commercial Sendmail product would be site licensed. Don Olson indicated that he would check into that issue.

The second project that Don is investigating is the installation of wireless antennas at various locations across campus. The antennas are 80211b compliant and would provide wireless coverage in most places around campus. The antennas could be installed as early as this summer. The cost for this project is approximately \$150,000. Don is working on the security issues related to the wireless network.

Amy Sileven inquired about the cost and source of funding for both projects. Both projects will be funded with year-end funds from IT's budget.

The committee discussed the use of wireless technology in the classroom. Several members expressed concern that students would spend time surfing rather than paying attention to lectures. The committee also discussed the legitimate uses of technology in the classroom. Don said that the wireless access would not replace wired access in terms of bandwidth and speed. Wireless access is meant to compliment, not replace wired connections on campus.

Undergraduate Student Technology Fee Update – David Carlson

David Carlson reported for the Undergraduate Student Technology Fee committee. A final report will be presented to CAC at a later date.

The committee has expended/awarded all the money available. After purchase orders were finalized, there was roughly \$35,000 left over. The money was then redistributed to three or four more projects. Very few requests were funded 100%, especially if the request asked for complete replacement of all computers in a lab. The committee felt it best

not to replace all the machines in a lab because that lab would have to encounter 100% replacement again in a few years.

### Email and Spam Discussion

Don has received reports from some faculty members that they are dissatisfied with the spam folder that collects spam in the current email system. These faculty would prefer that the spam not even come to their email at all. Don asked the committee how they felt about the current spam system. Don would want any changes to the current system discussed and approved by CAC.

The committee discussed how the current spam system operates. The spam filter ascribes a value to each email depending on a number of factors. It is then marked as spam. Several committee members reported that valid emails were often marked as spam and many spam emails are left unmarked. Listserv messages are often marked as spam. Don is concerned that important messages could be lost if the system were set up to just delete messages marked as spam.

The commercial Sendmail product that IT may be purchasing has a spam filter in it. David Carlson also suggested that IT design and offer spam and viruses classes that could teach users how to avoid unwanted emails. He also suggested changing websites so that email addresses were not listed in the traditional format so that automated systems could not read them and use them for spamming.

### Your Items

The committee discussed virus site licenses. IT has a site license for MacAfee, but departments are using other products also, such as Panda. IT will be negotiating the license with MacAfee this year. Don said that IT would look at some of the other products on the market.

David Carlson asked the committee if they were interested in making a statement about SIU's new web presence. Many of the committee members have opinions about the new sites. It was suggested that these opinions be collected and shared with Sue Davis at the next CAC meeting. David Carlson asked that the committee send their thoughts regarding the web site to him via email within the next few weeks. He will compile the comments and share that list with the committee before the next meeting. The committee supported inviting Sue Davis to the next meeting to discuss their concerns.

Dean Carlson adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Minutes taken by Stephanie Graves

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*Last Updated: Tuesday, October 25, 2004--JPD*

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