

Minutes of Computing Advisory Committee, 9 October 1997

Those attending: Jim Eynon, Dennis Leitner, Duke Koch, Chris Svec, Susan Logue, Al Allen, Michael Wainer, Geoff Nathan (recorder), Carolyn Snyder, David Shinn, John Hamman

Discussion began with the question of which major classrooms needed internet wiring. The list is as follows:

- Quigley 140B
- Pulliam 42
- Faner 1326
- Neckers 440B
- Neckers 240B
- Agriculture 102
- Life Sciences I 133
- Technology 111A

There are currently four 'technology classrooms' available on campus which have internet connections and projection screens. Current policy permits faculty to bring their own laptops or to check them out from Instructional Support Services. It is hoped eventually to put permanent hardware in all of these classrooms, but at the moment the use of portable equipment is necessary. Use of these classrooms varies from every week for some to only a few times per semester for others. Faculty usually pick up borrowed computers from the ISS office, but those with physical problems can usually get them delivered.

The existing 'distance learning' classrooms are in CASA, Rehn Hall, Pulliam and the Library. In addition, funding has been approved for converting Lawson 161 and Quigley 201 to distance learning rooms.

Geoff read a letter from Jan Schoen Henry on problems with a CASA lab whose computers are insufficiently powerful to run the software that is needed for the new degree program the department is responsible for. Al pointed out that there are similar problems in Rehn Hall, summing it up as 'the software has outrun the hardware'. He notes that we need a long-range plan to deal with renewing labs on a yearly basis, since currently labs are furnished on a one-time-only basis which makes no provision for technological obsolescence.

A further issue which was discussed was the attempt to provide for centralized purchasing of frequently-used software, and even hardware. Geoff will explore the issue further with Cheryl Farabaugh-Dorkins. The question of what constitutes 'infrastructure' was again discussed, but a general consensus seems to be long-term hardware such as wiring and the machines that go in closets to assist that wiring.

A further question that was raised was whether there was any plan for recycling surplus computers. It was noted that General Stores has a web page for just this purpose, but it may not be as widely used as it should be. This raised the issue of whether there was an inventory of computers on campus. Al says there are several.

Al introduced several initiatives that IT is taking. The auditors have been visiting, and he expects that there will be pressure to begin a LAN administrators group, and that there will be questions raised about year 2000 compliance, including compliance on individual desktops. We will need to formulate a formal plan for this.

The next meeting will be November 13, with a changed meeting time of 3:30. Meeting times will also be posted on the web page.

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