Minutes of the

Computing Advisory Committee

June 23, 1999

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Those attending: Dennis Leitner, Duke Koch, Larry Schilling, JP Dunn, Ray Goering, David Blakesley, Ruth Bernhardt, Susan Logue, Geoff Nathan (Recorder)

Duke reported informally that purchase of the new dial-up modems is proceeding. A general issue was raised that will be addressed further after a VC for Administration is named, specifically the question of to whom we report.

The discussion then turned to the report from the subcommittee on institutionalization of computer support. One major question that was raised was whether the model being proposed was a leftover of the eighties way of doing things. For example, who would be responsible for training the departmental-level support people? Almost everyone agreed that the three-level structure proposed was useful, simply to ensure that anyone with a problem with a computer at any level knew where to call for help. The task seems to be to create a culture where everyone has a computer guru to whom they can turn. In order to make this tractable it was suggested that calls to the next higher level be limited to one person per department. Duke Koch volunteered to survey a number of other universities to see how this problem is managed--some places severely limit the software supported, while others make extensive use of student workers.

The subcommittee discussing the maintenance of infrastructure pointed out that a crucial issue that would determine choices on infrastructure would be whether the University decided to go with continued use of labs or whether students should be required to purchase laptops. Now, at a time when crucial decisions need to be made about infrastructure upgrading seems a particularly good time to discuss this issue. It was decided that the topic of the next meeting would be the question of laptops vs. labs. It would be good if we could all check with our colleagues and get some sense of what other universities are doing, and we would ask Patty Cosgrove to discuss overall trends in lab use. The third committee deals with software licensing. They have been charged with finding information about licensing of system software and MS Office products, as well as finding further information on leasing of computers (the Edwardsville campus has recently decided to go that particular route.)

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 26 at 3:30 in the Library Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Last Updated: July 8, 1999--*DB*

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