

## Minutes of Computing Advisory Committee

19 September 2000

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

Don Olson had a number of items to report on activities at IT.

- 1) IT has replaced 187 computers in CLC labs, and a number of them have been given away to assorted departments. The actual list is appended. These are all relatively good Pentiums and Macs.
- 2) In a project jointly supported by Provost Winters and VC for Administration Poshard, all remaining tenured and tenure-track faculty on campus who still lack permanently wired connections will have them by the end of the semester. Also, a number of additional classrooms will be given Ethernet connections.
- 3) As part of the Technology fee expenditures a web server will be put in place for students. IT is consolidating orders for computers and software. There has been some interest expressed in increasing the technology fee, but students will have to see evidence that the money has been put to good use so far.
- 4) Plans continue to be developed to permit SIUC to join Internet2. The Chancellor, Provost and VCA are looking for funding sources to cover the approximately \$200,000 that it will cost to join and to add an additional DS-3 line through the Illinois Century Network. Meanwhile, Geoff is collecting information on projects that faculty on campus are involved in that would benefit from such a connection.
- 5) IT is currently working with Law and COBA on wetting up wireless networks in their respective buildings, and is also investigating a wireless network at the airport, where they are constrained by the fact that most of the facility is not owned by the University.
- 6) Training is beginning for non-IT LAN administrators, beginning with some basic training in Windows NT.
- 7) Since IBM has announced that it will no longer provide maintenance for the mainframe after July 1, IT is working on a replacement plan, but will be required to establish a plan for both campuses. It is hoped that CMS will be ported transparently to the new machine.
- 8) IT would still like a formal e-mail policy. Geoff pointed out that there are e-mail policies that have been passed by the Board of Trustees, but are not widely known. The subcommittee on e-mail will propose something fairly soon.
- 9) Discussion: Michael Wainer asked about whether there were comments in the Student Conduct Code with respect to appropriate use. Although Don didn't have the information, Geoff was able to find the following clause under 'violations':

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7 Actual or attempted abuse of computer time, including, but not limited
to,
  a Unauthorized entry into a file to use, read, or change the
contents, or for any other purpose
  b Unauthorized transfer of a file
  c Unauthorized use of another's identification and/or password
  d Use of computing facilities to interfere with the work of another
student, faculty member, or university official
  e Use of computing facilities to interfere with normal operation of
the university computing system
  f Knowingly causing a computer virus to become installed in a
computer system or file
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The question was raised about the general use of laptops in universities nationwide. Don said that his research revealed that some campuses are experimenting with wireless networks connecting to widely distributed cellphones and Palm machines, through which students could read their e-mail and do limited web browsing.

Don was also asked to look into the possibility of providing web space for faculty and staff. Duke asked about the current status of bulk computer orders, and specifically whether there was any chance of expanding the Dell contract to students and faculty/staff. Although such a possibility does not yet exist, it was pointed out that 710 is still a good source for purchase of Dell products, and current prices might be at least as good as, and perhaps better than the current contract.

Michael asked whether the used PC's that were transferred were part of a one-time-only deal or whether there would be more. Don stated that, since there was now a regular refresh plan for lab PC's, this should be possible every year.

Geoff introduced the proposed constitution for the Computing Advisory Committee. Two modifications were proposed to the membership provisions of the latest draft. One was to add a specific representative from Library Affairs. The other was to add a specific representative from Computer Science. In addition, in order to allow for the easy establishment of subcommittees, a clause reading "The committee may appoint subcommittees as needed, and may ask additional people to serve on those committees."

JP moved the passage of the constitution, and Dick seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. Geoff will forward it to the Provost, the VCA and the Chancellor for final approval, and Dick will check with the Faculty Association about their membership provision.

Discussion continued on the advisability of instituting a laptop requirement. Bruce Fisher reported that COBA was still in the investigation stage, but their students had expressed a definite interest in a purchase arrangement for \$900 per year. Don pointed out that wireless installations are now in many cases as cheap as wired networks, but the campus needs to come up with a standard. Dick pointed out that we need to survey the rest of campus to get some sense of students' willingness to pay.

Duke Koch asked that the issue of software standards be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17 at 8 AM in the Library Dean's Conference Room.

Appendix: Computers transferred from IT to academic departments:

107 Computers to the College of Liberal Arts.

67 for Faculty, 15 Macs for Art & Design, 10 Macs for Foreign

Languages,

15 for Political Science

9 Computers to the Computer Science Dept. in the College of Science

3 Computers to the College of Business

3 Computers to the Black Affairs Council

15 Computers (14 Macs, 1 PC) to Broadcasting in the College of Mass Comm

& Media Arts

50 Computers to the College of Applied Sciences and Arts

28 to Information Management Systems and 22 to Architecture & Interior

Design (they have asked for 30)

Total - 187 transferred.

