Computing Advisory Committee Meeting 10/19/2010

Attending: Dan Stover (Chair), Kevin Bame, David Carlson, Patty Cosgrove, Garth Crosby, Janet Douglas, Tom Harbert, Judy Marshall, Mark Peterson, Jason Phillips, Jerry Richards (IT), Mike Shelton, Anita Stoner.

Absent: Kemal Akkaya, Doug Lind, Tonny Oyana.

Meeting started at 2:00 PM. Mike Shelton from Information Technology Network Services gave a presentation on the campus bandwidth shortage issue. Apparently lately there had been some problems with Internet connectivity and speed.

Mike presented a PowerPoint that explained the issue in a fair amount of detail. Basically, the issue is that SIUC is using more bandwidth than is available. The amount available currently is 350 Megabits per Second (Mps). Mike showed charts with usage spiking all the way up to 600Mps. This issue was identified earlier in the year but SIU was told that there was no bandwidth available from our current provider, the Illinois Century Network (ICN). There are plans to upgrade the Internet bandwidth sometime in November, given that the capability is in place.

As Mike explained, there is a 7206 router outside the firewall that is doing both allocating of bandwidth based on certain criteria (such as time of day and category, such as ResNet, Campus, and Special Apps) and servicing of Border Gateway Protocol (BGP). This 7206 router was overwhelmed and was not able to keep up with all the traffic, leading to slowdowns and connectivity issues.

Mike gave some information about how bandwidth is allocated to different groups at different times of the day and displayed some usage graphs. He noted that the white areas in the graphs indicated times when the 7206 router was not able to keep up and therefore did not produce a graph.

Mike mentioned that, for a temporary fix, Network Engineering moved the bandwidth allocating function to a 6509 router on the inside of the firewall. This, at the time of the presentation, appeared to be somewhat alleviating the problem for now.

Meeting was over at 3:00 PM.