Academic Computing Steering Committee
(AcCSC)

Minutes of Meetings:
January 21, 2003, 1:30 pm. ITS conference room

Present: Bauman, Cossey, Davis, Keller, Klein, Lesh, Smith

Review of last meeting's minutes.

1. Web Archiving project. Doug distributed an exchange of emails between Tom M. and Archiving committee members regarding next steps. He also distributed a talking paper by Leo Geoffrion at Skidmore, and reported that Hamilton has included Union in a pilot of DSpace, a "durable digital archive" technology developed at MIT.

On the subject of archiving, Josh asked about the DVD burner in the FCRC. We agreed that better documentation (including the proper type of media to use) would be desirable. We agreed that until a DVD standard is established (if ever), DVD technology will be somewhat cumbersome for the average user. We also agreed that whatever backup medium we use today, digital archives will need to be regularly migrated to the next storage medium, for the foreseeable future.

2. House System Plans. Doug and Kathryn outlines some issues regarding technology in the new House System, raised at today's general faculty meeting. There will be a seminar-classroom in each of the seven new houses (two in South College, two in North, and one each in three former fraternity houses). The first two of these (in South) will come on line next Fall.

The question is how much electronic classroom
technology can/should be in those rooms. We agreed to invite Tom McEvoy to a meeting to discuss the issue.

3. New College website. The College website has been updated. Doug expressed hope (in the minutes) that the old site has been adequately archived, to keep a history of what the site has looked like over the years.

We noted that the top four links are designed as Portals for those four types of users of the College site.

4. Departmental websites. We continued our discussion of making navigation among the "official" and "department maintained" departmental websites more transparent. Certainly before making Departmental maintained websites more prominent, we need to insure that sites are reasonably up to date and accurate. We quickly discovered that not all are. (Names suppressed to protect the guilty.)

In the context of Departmental websites, Kathryn demonstrated WeBWork, the Mathematics Department's online homework software. The Department uses this software, developed at the University of Rochester, instead of Blackboard because of its superior symbolic notation handling. If you would like to try the system, contact the Math Department for a guest account.

5. ePortfolios go live. Connecticut College has opened access to the Union College ePortfolio system. Over the next several weeks, we will be adding names to the access list. If you would like access to try out this system, contact D. Klein. Members of the AcCSC will be added.

6. Agenda items for next time:

- Continued discussion, with Tom McEvoy, of electronic classroom capabilities in the new Houses.
- Status report on R-25 implementation
• Status report on online summer pre-registration, with a further discussion of the feasibility of moving all registration online.

Next meeting: January 28, 2003, 1:30 PM, ITS conference room

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