Academic Computing Steering Committee
(AcCSC)

Minutes of Meetings:

March 17, 2004

Review of last meeting's minutes

Meeting held in the conference room of the newly-renovated ITS.

1. Internet Connection. Union will be upgrading its internet connection with a second line to a second vendor, to try to prevent future outages. The new line will be either 6, 12, or 18 mbs. The cost will be reasonable, and the vendor will provide a level 3 switch.

2. Alden Trust. The College will apply to the Alden Trust to support the creation of additional electronic classrooms in the new House System.

3. Laptop Policy. Fuat is concerned that not all faculty know about, and are taking advantage of the laptop policy. There are several issues for faculty and ITS: since laptops are more expensive, more fragile, generally less powerful, and have a shorter lifespan, there are hidden costs to ITS -- how often do they have to be replaced, and how will ITS deal with a smaller stream of machines to recycle to other uses? The ITS budget and endowment income is not enough to replace all campus machines (~1400) even every 4 or 5 years, now. For faculty, there are issues of insurance.

4. Spam issues. What can be done?

5. ITS report.
There are two new electronic classrooms. Humanities 112 is a full classroom, which cost about $40K to set up; and Humanities 019 is a new type of room, with no computer (~20K). It is designed for faculty to bring in a notebook.

The RIAA continues to crack down on downloading of movies and music. Software firms are also going after illegal file trading. Tom. M., our copyright officer, is monitoring legal developments.

The wireless network is expanding on campus. See the ITS wireless resource page, http://www.union.edu

This summer, again, ITS, through the Office of Curricular Design, will support develop of faculty IT projects. Last summer, 13 faculty participated. Kesheng Yu has developed an online database of how faculty use technology in teaching.

Equipment in some of the electronic classrooms has been upgraded.

Faculty are beginning to experiment with web logs (blogs). Mary Mar has been looking at using blogs in writing assignments. See http://weblog.union.edu

Conan, the last VMS machine (library) has been retired/shot.

For your information, the ITS winter newsletter is online at: http://www.union.edu/ITS/ACAD/ACADNEWS/update0204/index.htm


Meeting (in)frequency. Dave Cossey has suggested twice a term, and that sounds good to me.

Membership -- we need to clarify divisional and student membership.
- Meeting location. I suggest the new ITS conference room.
- Food. I suggest that the meetings include lunch.
- Time. Thursday 12:15-1:30 looked like they should work.

7. Future agenda items.

- Hardware and software standardization
- RIAA lawsuits
- SPAM and filtering – gateway solutions Virus attacks and firewalls; security and chat
- Outsourcing Classroom design
- Administrative systems (online registration)
- Internet 2 and internet bandwidth
- Mail attachment size
- Mail retention policies
- Blackboard upgrades
- Response time, and timeouts on web advising

8. Links of interest. ECAR has just released two of its research studies. Your institution does not need to be an ECAR subscriber to access these.


- Here is an excerpt from one list posting on RIAA lawsuits:

Some of you might be interested in the article that appeared on CNET News.com about the lawsuits that the Recording Industry Association of America has brought again students at three universities for file-swapping on their local networks. [http://news.com.com/2100-1027-995429.html](http://news.com.com/2100-1027-995429.html)
Have any of you written a formal policy which would protect your university against liability in allowing students to swap files? If so, would you be willing to share that document? I am trying to put together a formal statement/policy.

We allow students to file-share on our LAN (because we have to with the nature of our network) and we have a packet shaper that restricts students ability to share over the Internet to a small amount of bandwidth.

- Here are summary statistics from a listserv question on e-mail sizes:

  Awhile back, I solicited information on the message size allowed at our institutions for e-mail. Here is what I received in summary:

  - 14 institutions responded - Total Message Size (including attachments) varies from 300KB to 20MB. - Average Message Size allowed is 7.7MB - Raw data distribution: < 1MB 1 institution 2MB 1 5MB 4 8MB 3 10MB 3 12MB 1 20MB 1 - No institution that responded offered unlimited message size - Use of Zip utility, ftp, and web-access (i.e., put it on a web server and give the recipient a URL to retrieve it) were the means suggested by several for sending larger-than-limit files. - Some linkage between size limit and the size of standard user mailbox quota cited. - Casey Green of the Campus Computing Project sent along this related, additionally useful information:

  "The Campus Computing Project has addressed the issue of email attachments in the 2002 and 2003 surveys. Date from the fall 2003 Survey: -- 60 pct of the participating institutions report limiting the size of email attachments (by sectors, the high is 69 pct in public universities; low is 48 pct in community colleges) -- across all
sectors, among the institutions that do impose limits on attachments, the mean file size cap is 1.4 MB.

The 2003 survey also has data on the max. size of student web sites on campus services: mean = 272 MB (high mean was 867 in private four year colleges; Low mean was 51 MB in public research universities."

Source: Campus Computing 2003 p. 24 (bottom of the page)

Thanks to all who responded. -Brian Brian D. Voss Associate Vice President for Telecommunications Office of the Vice President for Information Technology & CIO Indiana University

Next meeting: to be determined.