Academic Computing Steering Committee (AcCSC)

Minutes of Meetings:
April 11, 2001. OCS conference room; 4:00 pm

Present: Batson, Boyer, Keller, Klein, McFadden, Sener, Smith

Review of last meeting's minutes

1. **Yahoo survey**: Union College has decided not to participate in this year's Yahoo Internet Life "Most Wired Campus" survey. [Link to rationale](http://minerva.union.edu/accsc/Archives/Minutes-2001-04-11.pdf).

2. **Distance Learning**. The AAC is forming a subcouncil to explore the implications of Distance Learning for Union College. Doug distributed four documents related to this issue:

   - the contract between Union College and Albany Medical College establishing the online MA in Bioethics program. Tom McFadden expressed concern that the section on Courseware Ownership is vague, and some terms not well defined. This underscores the need for the College to have a clear intellectual property rights policy. John Boyer expressed concern that any DL effort receive adequate technical support. GMI has hired Lloyd Tredwell to provide curricular and technical support there, and Greg Roth is responsible for the [Blackboard server](http://minerva.union.edu/accsc/Archives/Minutes-2001-04-11.pdf) in OCS.

   - "Who Owns What? Unbundling Web Course Property Rights," by Robert Ubell, published in the current [Educause Quarterly](http://minerva.union.edu/accsc/Archives/Minutes-2001-04-11.pdf), addressing property rights issues in what appears to be a sensible way: "By unbundling different rights and uses the policy recognizes the sometimes competing claims of faculty and academic institutions to intellectual property contained in Web..."
- The new course proposal form submitted by Richard Harris from Hobart-William Smith, for a course to be taught from there this fall on the Culture of Vietnam. This course proposal will shortly be going to the AAC. This is part of the Partnership for Global Education project between Union and HWS, funded by Mellon.

- A one-page rubric to aid in writing the charge for the AAC subcouncil on DL. Doug Klein will meet with Andy Feffer to consider what the subcouncil wishes to address. Tom McFadden's "How to Define "Online Course" and "Distance Education Course"" is also useful. We would like to help the AAC subcommittee know what we have already done, and focus on issues which will result in a clear DL policy for the College.

3. Department Websites: We need to encourage and enable Departments to maintain their internal websites. Several Departments' pages are beginning to look a bit dated. Perhaps Departmental webmasters could be permitted to enroll in a more advanced version of the OCS summer web class. Tom Smith would consider making available some generic templates to Departments wishing to match some look of the "official" Union website.

4. Web advising. Planning to implement a pilot of web advising in the Fall is proceeding. OCS has acquired some of the hardware necessary, and necessary funding has been identified. Later this term we will meet jointly with the Administrative Computing Steering Committee to discuss the timeline for planning and implementing web advising.

One component of web advising, which might also tie to the College's desire (see the "Plan for Union") to establish a technical literacy standard, is to investigate the use of online electronic portfolios, such as employed by Kalamazoo College and Wesleyan University.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 18, 4 pm, OCS conference room.