Academic Computing Steering Committee (AcCSC)

Minutes of Meetings:
May 18, 2000
Olin 110

Present: Dave Cossey (chairing), C. Batston, J. Boyer, D. Keller, T. McFadden, C. Traver

Review of last meeting’s minutes
(Note: The May 11 meeting was cancelled.)

Agenda
1. Internet connection update
2. Discussion of policy on accepting distance ed. courses for credit

Handouts
References

1. Internet connection update. David Cossey shared information on Union’s upcoming upgrade to its Internet connection. Union has been accepted to participate as a member of a local regional consortium to receive a fast line that will be used for its internet connection. There are two parts to Internet access: 1) a line (sometimes referred to as a local loop), and 2) internet access. Currently both the line and the access are contracted to Applied Theory (formerly NYSERnet).

A meeting will be held next week with other members of the consortium. At that time more details should be known (e.g. timing, etc.).

2. Discussion of policy on accepting distance education courses for credit.

The discussion centered on the issue of how Union will treat distance education/online courses taken by Union College students.
It was generally agreed that the policy for accepting such courses at Union should be similar to the current policy for awarding course credit for courses taken elsewhere. A current distinction is made between courses that are transferred in by transfer students. These are students who take course at another institution(s) and then apply for admission to Union College. The other category would be courses that are taken by students already enrolled at Union College. These may be courses taken during the summer, term abroad courses taken, etc.

Some of the questions raised were:

a. Do universities that offer online courses also allow them to count for their own fulltime programs (e.g. Is Cornell accepting courses from e-Cornell?).

b. How many courses can be transferred? It was pointed out that on page 3 of the current Academic Register indicates that at least two years of a student’s program must be completed at Union.

The following motion was made and approved:

Union College will accept distance education/online courses as long as:
- these courses meet the same requirements as other transfer and cross-registered courses;
- courses are offered from a regionally accredited college or university; and
- the home institution would recognize the course towards one of its accredited degrees.

[This motion will be sent, in the form of a recommendation, to the AAC. -JDK]

It was also felt that a course that would otherwise be accepted but which was taken electronically would not be disqualified from receiving transfer credit.

Also, the student would have to receive prior permission before taking the course (as is currently the case).

For transfer students, the same procedure as is now used
should be used.

John Boyer moved to adjourn at 4:30 PM. Motion carried.

Handouts – May 18, 2000


2. Sections form the 1999-2000 Union College Academic Register relating to courses taken elsewhere, etc.

   pp. 3, 4 Degree Requirements
   p. 8 Independent Study and Independent Research
   pp. 8, 9 Study Abroad
   pp. 11, 12 HMAC (Consortium) Courses
   p. 12 Summer School

3. "Distance Education and the Liberal Arts College: Some Thoughts." T. McFadden.

4. Materials from the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC).


   Attached is the "primer" described in article ("Developing a Distance Education Policy for 21st Century Learning,” March 2000. ACE)

REFERENCES: (Thanks to Tom McFadden and Doug Klein; feel free to e-mail additional citations.)

- Tom McFadden's Overview of Distance Education
- Union College policy on credit for courses at another institution.
- Union Catalog copy on Summer School
- Union College forms to request transfer credit, and procedures.
- Collected references on Distance Learning (Doug Klein)
- DETC: Distance Education and Training Council
Distance-Educator (e-journal)
NCA-Commission on Institutions of Higher Education:
Guidelines for Distance Education
Western Assn. of Schools & Colleges (WASC) "Linking Accreditation to Educational Ideals"

Next meeting:
May 25, 2000, 3:30 pm, Olin 110

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