Academic Computing Steering Committee (AcCSC)

Minutes of Meetings:  
September 6, 2001; Steinmetz 237, 1:30 pm

Present: Boyer, Cossey, Keller, Klein, McFadden, Sener, Traver

Review of last meeting's minutes

The Steering Committee on Academic Computing held its first meeting of the term today.

1. **ITS Summer Review.**  Dave C. and Diane K. reviewed activities of Information Technology Services over the summer. They included:

   1. Name change, from OCS to ITS.
   2. Added three new positions: a computer technician, a network technician, and a systems analyst (who will begin work Sept. 10).
   3. Provided extensive support for the Johns Hopkins University CTY program on campus this summer.
   4. Undertook a major campus network upgrade, what affected nearly every building on campus, and has significantly improved both the speed and functionality of the network.
   5. Extended the campus wireless network.
   6. Installed the hardware and software to support the Web Advising project; the pilot is running right now for 23 faculty.
   7. Continued the nearly complete Colleague 16 conversion.
   8. Installed Union’s first firewall.
9. Added five new public e-mail and web terminals in Reamer Campus Center.

10. Added new multimedia equipment in the newly-named Media Services (formerly Instructional Technology) office.

11. Continued training and support for the Blackboard course management system. This Fall, 44 courses are registered to use the system, and the Online Bioethics program has officially launched.

12. Replaced computers in four Olin classrooms with new IBM Netvista machines.

13. Converted NWSE 210 into a wired or wireless laptop classroom.

14. Renovated ITS spaces to provide new offices for the new staff members.

Click here for the full text of the report.

In addition, we are nearly ready (waiting on a vendor) to upgrade our campus internet connection by a factor of 2.5 (from 6 MB/s to 15 MB/s).

Other recent developments:

- Tom M. announced that the Library has replaced about 30 public workstations with new IBM Netvista machines.

- Doug K. announced that the Sociology of Vietnam course between HWS and Union had a successful inauguration on Monday, Sept. 3.

2. Membership. We agreed that we will seek a temporary Humanities representative who can meet at the appointed 1:30 Thursday hour. We will also invite one student to join.

3. Intellectual Property Rights. Tom M. has been researching IPR extensively, and he and Doug will work up a draft to circulate to the Committee during this term. Fuat speculated that this is a transitional issue. As more and more teaching materials become electronic, the value of any individual’s notes may diminish.
4. **Departmental Web Pages.** Doug is conducting a survey of Departmental web pages and web masters, to encourage current and accurate information. John and Cherrice suggested that we work with Tom S. to draw up not just web-page templates, but a template for suggested content on Departmental sites.

5. **Printing.** With the advent of Digital Reserves in the Library, the issue of the cost of printing supplies, especially in labs that run free printing services, is a growing concern. We discussed several alternatives to try to curb excessive and wasteful printing, while being fair to students. Cherrice suggested giving students cards with a set number of free prints; we also discussed lowering the per-copy cost below $.10.

6. **Web Advising.** We agreed that the Academic and Administrative Steering Committees might wish to meet together later this term to begin discussing how the Web Advising project is going, and what the next steps could and ought to be. We should also consider conducting faculty and student focus groups to gather more input.

7. **Notebook Policy.** Diane K. raised the question of insurance for College-owned notebook computers. According to Ernie Conte (via Doug), the College will not be offering lower deductibles for notebooks, so the deductible remains at $1000. The question remains, who should be responsible for that amount: the individual employee, the employee’s Department, or the College. An individual might also be covered by his/her private insurance, but that will vary by individual, and by circumstance (e.g., homeowners v. auto insurance). Dave C. will be meeting with Ernie Conte later this month and will raise the issue again.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35

Next meeting: September 13, 2001, 1:30, Steinmetz 237