Academic Computing Steering Committee (AcCSC)

Minutes of Meetings:
October 11, 2001; Steinmetz 237, 1:30 pm

Present: Bauman, Boyer, Cossey, Klein, Sener, Smith, Traver

Review of last meeting's minutes

Clarification: See last week's minutes for a clarification of the statement about the Schaffer Library online catalog system.

Welcome: The committee welcomed a new member, Josh Bauman, ’04 as its student member.

1. Network issues. Doug K. brought in a length (100' plus) of Cat-5 cable recovered from Davidson South which appears to have been used to create an ad hoc network among rooms in the dorm. These types of unauthorized networks can cause problems for the wider campus network. Josh B. speculated that these networks might be used to play real-time computer games. Dave C. and the ITS staff are working on ways to more quickly identify and isolate network problems.

2. Budgets. Departments and Responsibility Centers are currently working on their 2002-2003 budget submissions. We will have a look at the Academic Affairs technology budget in a week or two.

3. Cable TV system. The College is considering running cable TV into all dorm rooms. At some point this committee might be interested in two related issues: Who will administer this system (what person, what responsibility center), and how can the system be used to further the academic mission of the College? (The system is proposed to have four channels dedicated for...
4. **Webmasters list.** Earlier this term Doug K. conducted a survey to identify where Departments hosted their websites, and who was designated as webmaster. The results are posted. Since the survey results are incomplete and changing, they are NOT linked anywhere except here. You can also only view it from a Union IP address.

Doug suggests that over the coming months or year, we (Doug, ITS, web office, others?) hold workshops for Departmental webmasters to go over issues such as:

- web policy guidelines
- site content
- site style
- file and site naming conventions
- ongoing maintenance of the site
- [other issues??]

5. **Advising system.** The following message has been sent to the 10 departments currently authorized to use the new Web Advising system:

October 9, 2001
Department and Program Chairs,

All faculty in the following departments have been added to the new web advising system.

- English
- Anthropology
- Sociology
- History
- Classics
- Visual Arts.
- Math
- Modern Languages
- Psychology
- Performing Arts
Feel free to call me with any questions. I would also be glad to visit a Department meeting to introduce your faculty to this new service.

The web advising system comes as the result of nearly a year of hard work by the staff (especially Dave R. and Steve R.) at ITS. By now, you all should have received instructions on how to log on to the system, and how to access information about your advisees (as well as other students with advisors in your Department). The URL for student records through web advising is: http://webadvising.union.edu/

I hope you and your colleagues will use these system during the upcoming advising period, and will report to me, or to Dave or Steve, your experiences. Our goal is to make better AND make easier the advising system at Union, and your comments and suggestions are certainly welcome.

I'd also like to remind you of the "Advisor's Advisor" web site. This site collects links to a variety of advising topics throughout the Union website. It also includes links to many advising forms (e.g. change of major forms) and other administrative forms (IEF requests, WAC requests, Faculty activities, expense reports, etc.) Send any comments about the "Advisor's Advisor" to Doug Klein.

6. E-mail accounts. Fuat S. raised the question of supplying advisee e-mail addresses, especially if students do not choose to use their official Union e-mail addresses. The College does not collect (and probably could, or should not try to collect) non-Union addresses. The best solution seems to be either to manually collect students' preferred addresses, or to teach them how to set up .forward files in their Idol accounts.

Here is one example of a help sheet for setting up .forward. Perhaps someone here can adapt these instructions to match what users see on Idol.
[Added Oct. 16: Diane K. has sent me the link to ITS’s "how to" sheet on forwarding mail. We should publicize this sheet to faculty. This is part of a much larger list of "How To" sheets for PC, Mac, and UNIX systems.]

7. About U. The new e-mail news service of the Communications office is in beta test mode.

[Added Oct. 17: Click here to subscribe to About U.]

8. Monkcam. Shortly after the meeting ended, Monkcam became operational (beta testing). The Monks will be live on Monkcam beginning Saturday, October 20, for about 5 days.

[Added Oct. 16. Monks page, with link to the cam is here.]

The meeting adjourned at 2:30

Next meeting: October 18, 2001, 1:30, Steinmetz 237

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