Academic Computing Steering Committee (AcCSC)

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

Present: Bauman, Boyer, Cossey, Keller, Klein, McFadden, Sener, Smith

Review of lst meeting's minutes

1. Report from Educause. The annual Educause conference was held October 28-31 in Indianapolis, IN. Dave C., Diane K., and Mary P. attended. Dave was on Program committee; Diane adjunct program committee.

Network security was a very big topic of discussion; no one has a good handle; everyone seems concerned about insecure FTP and telnet; PKI; Other topics discussed: bandwidth: Fat Pipes are not enough; Learning portfolios; a couple of portfolios were demonstrated: U. of Richmond; U. of Minnesota.

U. of Minnesota has a staff of 23 building their electronic portfolio. They started on the academic side, then went to the career development side; linked to their academic systems. Blurred lines between portal and portfolio. U. of Richmond was working at a much lower level. Theirs is all student-based, not tied to administrative system, and uses an inductive model: students put down their most significant experiences, and explain why, beginning in sophomore year and developing a matrix of activities over time. Students explain how they took advantage of the experiences and how the experiences helped them in the future.

Portals: There were many papers on portals. Howard Strauss from Princeton talked about portals. www.princeton.edu/~howard/slides/portals
A website has one view. But with a portal, you can
have many views.

Speakers included Sally Ride and Neil Gershon, MIT Media Lab, we should have here. (See: www.media.mit.edu/physics), John Seely Brown: 4 laws: Moore’s Law and storage. All visited the IBM booth and learned about the academic scholars program.

Other topics covered:

- PDAs; what role will they play? Compaq iPac. Microsoft and Compaq are trying to port Blackboard to PDAs.
- Emerging technologies: Acrobat papers
- Office XP: has built-in handwriting recognition; free form document, also speech recognition is built in
- .net applications: MS applications that will be aware of one another. Know about IM, e-mail, video conferencing.

Diane reported on e-Army-U, free education to all in service, entirely online. 15 colleges providing courses. Every soldier gets a notebook computer, and must complete 12 credit hours in 2 years, started 10 months ago. Partnered with Price-Coopers-Waterhouse. http://earmyu.com

Dave and Diane also took a trip to IBM, Palisades research center; overview of their product line. IBM does real research, unlike the Dells and Gateways.

2. Web news. Tom S. made several announcements:

- AboutU Launches Nov. 9
- College Relations is hiring a web steward; machine will be provided from web steward fund.
- We will renew our contract with our Alumni Services provider, and will expand services contracted.

3. New computer allocations.
4. Library - Will consider replacing the computers in the Bibliographic Instruction (BI) classroom, and will continue to grow its reserve for a new catalog system.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30

Last meeting of the Fall term.