

Minutes of the University Communications Resources Committee

Meeting held: Wednesday, October 27, 1993 - 3:00-5:00 pm  
Location: 224 Williams

Present: David Beagle, David Bevan, Erv Blythe, George Crofts (Chairman), Jamie Evans, Mark Hunter, Judy Lilly, Buddy Litchfield, Lance Matheson, Lenwood McCoy, Mark Sanders, Frank Schima, Matt Swift

Guests: Phil (Theta) Bowden, Carol Eggleston, Wayne Donald

1. Approval of Minutes

The September minutes were approved.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Jamie Evans was elected vice chair.

3. Initiatives for Administrative Areas under Distributed Computing

Wayne Donald, director of systems analysis & services, gave an overview of computer initiatives for administrative areas. He focused on efforts to automate human resources information. A system is being purchased and modified to allow paper-less transactions including leave reports and personnel appointments and changes. A commercial system that can handle the core functions will be purchased and customized to handle our specific needs. Bids are due this week, a purchase may occur by year's end.

The system will have a unix server and support both Mac and Windows environments. Implementation will occur between six and eighteen months of the purchase. The time for implementation will depend on the resources available for customizing the system and purchasing equipment upgrades in unit offices. (Ethernet connection will be needed for the system.) Groups of users will help evaluate the bids.

4. Blacksburg Electronic Village Video

Due to equipment failure, the Blacksburg Electronic Village video tape could not be shown.

5. Subcommittee Discussion

There was a good discussion on subcommittees and topics the committee should investigate this year. Mark Sanders sees the need for much more education for faculty, staff, and students with respect to the electronic communication systems. A subcommittee could work on this issue. The subcommittee members should spend time deciding just what to investigate, but the topics would likely include general information to the campus community on communications infrastructure plans, information on distributed computing applications, the BEV, and the faculty and staff development projects. The subcommittee might also look at sub-parts of

the instructional development initiative that could be isolated and presented to wider audiences. Matt Swift sees a continuing role for the universal access subcommittee including a way to give people a voice in changes in the communications area.

Discussion should continue via our listserv. Committee members should identify the subcommittee on which they would serve.

6. Becoming More Informed about Network Issues

David Beagle will see if the library computer room could be reserved, so the committee could gain some first-hand experience and knowledge about network software such as gopher.

7. Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be December 7, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, beginning in the library computer laboratory.