

MINUTES
Computer Committee
President's Boardroom
September 1, 1993
3 PM

PRESENT: Gregory Brown, John Burton, David Goodyear,
George Libey, Tom McAnge, Gerry McLaughlin,
Harlan Miller, Bhaba Misra, Terry Rakes,
K. B. Rojiani, Frank Schima, Peter Shires, Jay
Stoeckel, Ernest Stout, John Tombarge, Mike Williams

ABSENT: Sean Arthur, Earving Blythe, Scott Johnson,
Katherine Johnston, D. B. Taylor

VISITOR(S): Barbara Robinson and Bill Sanders (Computing Center)

AGENDA ITEM 1: COMMITTEE CHAIR (WILLIAMS)

The committee chair of the Computing Committee is normally appointed by the President from the academic faculty members. This year appointment was delayed by his illness and volunteers were solicited. Discussion will continue via electronic mail with the expectation that committee members will make a recommendation to the President before the next Computing Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2: MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7 MEETING (WILLIAMS)

Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

A draft of the Computing Committee's annual report for the 1992/93 year was distributed for comment. A final version will be offered to the Computing Committee for approval at the next meeting and subsequently forwarded to the Commission on University Support.

Several committee members met last May to discuss the changing mission of the Computing Committee and to develop recommendations for revamping subcommittees to better meet the needs of a more distributed computing environment. Attendees felt the Computing Committee needed to become more proactive. They suggested the End User Subcommittee might focus on quality of computing services while the Capacity and Planning Subcommittee, renamed Computer Resources Planning Subcommittee, might focus on quantity or availability of services.

AGENDA ITEM 3: COMMITTEE LOGISTICS (WILLIAMS)

As in past years, committee members agreed to conduct business via electronic mail, eliminating paper distribution of minutes and other documents. Draft minutes will continue to be exchanged with the Communications Resources Committee. Future Computing Committee meetings will be held in the Information Systems Building, conference room D at 3:30 on the first Wednesday of the month, except for January, when it will be held the second Wednesday.

AGENDA ITEM 4: COMPUTING CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS (WILLIAMS)

VM2 was shut down early this summer. Although some individuals suffered some inconvenience, the project went well overall, and there are no significant outstanding problems.

Many services offered by Information Systems require rigorous user identification for various reasons. Network policies, for example, prohibit anonymous use of telnet, modem pool users must be identified to allow billing, and electronic mail requires an identity for delivery. In order to reduce the number of ids required for use of these facilities, the Computing Center has initiated a new PID (Personal userID) system, whereby one id and password will permit access to several services. Announcements of this program seem to have engendered numerous incorrect rumors, which highlight the difficulty Information Systems has encountered in communicating changes to the University community in a reliable way. Early announcements which offer the opportunity for users to adjust gracefully to changes may be ignored.

Even as the University moves to a more distributed computing model, mainframe services, including electronic mail on VM1, are expected to continue to be offered for the next four to five years.

A summary report of the pilot Faculty Development Institute was distributed. State budget shortfalls may affect the scope of the project, though it is expected to go forward at some level with Information Systems funding. Participants for next summer have not been selected and the possibility of offering the institute during the school year is being explored.

AGENDA ITEM 5: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

No subcommittee met this summer. The Site License Subcommittee will be evaluating proposals in about a week.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Some concern was expressed that, although the new governance structure is expected to operate as a twelve month system, the Computing Committee does not meet during the summer. Summer meetings are not practical since the committee has many nine-month faculty members.

The next meeting will be held on October 6 at 3:30 p.m. in conference room D in the Information Systems Building.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.