

Minutes of the University Communications Resources Committee

Meeting held: Tuesday, December 7, 1993 - 3:00-5:00 pm
Location: 3:00-4:00: Library's Computer Room; 4:00-5:00:
Moved to another room reserved by Buddy Litchfield

Present: David Beagle, David Bevan, George Crofts (Chairman),
Ron Daniel, John Eaton (for Bernard LaBerge), Jamie
Evans, Ed Fox, Mark Hunter, Jo Johnson, Judy Lilly,
Buddy Litchfield, Lance Matheson, Tom McAnge, John
Moore, Mark Sanders

Guests: Phil (Theta) Bowden, Greg Kroll

1. Introduction and Practice with Networks

John Moore and Greg Kroll gave the committee an overview of how the network (internet) can be used. Applying the software distributed and taught in the instructional development initiative workshops, Mr. Kroll gave the committee a quick, hands-on demonstration of some capabilities (and exasperations) of the world of networks. The network with the software make e-mail, file sharing, and on-line searches easy.

2. Approval of Minutes

The October minutes were approved.

3. Subcommittee Reports

A report from the subcommittee on network education is appended to these minutes.

4. BEV Video

The Blacksburg Electronic Village video expanded the committee's understanding of the electronic village concept.

5. Other Items as Suggested by Members

John Eaton reported that Ed Fox and David Bevan are involved in discussions about submitting dissertations electronically to the graduate school. Such dissertations will be stored on disk rather than in hard-copy form. They will be made available electronically on the network rather than from university microfilm as xerox copies.

Ed mentioned that technical reports may soon follow. The computer science department has four years of technical reports on-line in electronic form.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 25, 3:00 - 5:00, location to be announced.

ATTACHMENT #1:

Network Education Subcommittee Members of the UCRC
Minutes of December 6, 1993, Meeting

Subcommittee Members: Dave Beagle, Daniel Gallagher, Lance
Matheson, Lenwood McCoy, Mark Sanders

(Chair), Frank Schima, Shirley Travis

Lance Matheson, Lenwood McCoy, and Mark Sanders met to begin the work of the Network Education Subcommittee of the UCRC.

Our agenda was as follows:

1. Background
2. Possible "Plan of Work" for Subcommittee:
 - a. Identify Network Education Problems/Needs (e.g. need for better information distribution with respect to the campus network, central point for network access information, need for ongoing educational programs, etc.)

Methods of approach:

Committee brainstorming & discussions
Canvassing our colleagues
Data collection as appropriate
 - b. Determine what programs are currently in place"
 - c. Identify network education "strategies"
 - d. Provide recommendations back to UCRC
3. Work Assignments?
4. Adjourn

After a general discussion regarding our charge and how we should go about the work of the committee, we had a very productive discussion with respect to #2 above. We began to identify some aspects of electronic communication ("networking") that could benefit from additional education efforts around campus. These included information regarding:

access to the university network (including a host of initial installation and configuration issues),
access to the internet,
ethernet installation,
security issues,
home access/configuration issues,
general information on "networking,"
student access issues

Following this discussion, we began to identify places where information on these and other topics is currently, or might be made available. That list included:

4Help
Fastline
Spectrum
Collegiate Times
University Info (ERIS) system
Campus Computing Labs
Traditional mail notices
Student registration information
Prospective student mailings
Undergraduate and Graduate catalogs
Campus TV
Videotape training modules
Floppy disk tutorials

Mark Sanders agreed to send a memo to Judy Lilly, Bill Sanders, and Tom Head asking what types of network education efforts were currently in place from CNS, User Services, and LRC respectively.

In preparation for our next meeting (probably in February) we decided that each of the subcommittee members should ask his/her colleagues the following question: "What information about electronic communication would you like to see made available at Virginia Tech?" You might also ask them for suggestions on how that information might best be made available.

We adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sanders, Subcommittee Chair

ATTACHMENT #2:

Copy of Memorandum Sent

MEMORANDUM

To: Tom Head, Judy Lilly, Bill Sanders, & Ed Fox From: Mark Sanders

Date: 12/8/93

Subject: Network Education Subcommittee

The University Communications Resource Committee (UCRC) has established a new subcommittee titled "Network Education" that I have been asked to chair. In concert with the general purposes of the UCRC, the purpose of the Network Education subcommittee is to examine current network education practices at Virginia Tech and generate suggestions for enhancing those services. These would in turn be considered by the larger UCRC group, with the final result being one or more recommendations coming from the UCRC to the university community at large. This is in keeping with the UCRC's charge which includes a provision to "...recommend policies regarding planning, purchasing, installing, and utilizing the university's communication resources."

With that in mind, our subcommittee is in the process of identifying what is currently in place in terms of educational support for "networking" at Virginia Tech. The subcommittee has identified User Services, CNS, LRC, and the CS Department as current sources of general "network education" for students and faculty on this campus.

Obvious sources of information about "networking" include 4Help, FastLine, CNS telephone support, and the network education component of the Faculty Development Initiative. But there are all sorts of other educational services provided by Virginia Tech personnel relating to "the network." It would be very helpful to the subcommittee if each of you would provide me with a brief annotated list of the types of educational support you now offer with respect the network. Annotations might include any detail you think might be relevant and useful to the subcommittee.

I would appreciate your input before January 15, 1994. Feel free to contact me if you have questions about this. Thanks in advance for your assistance with this request.