Library, Media, Academic Computing Committee Minutes
November 4, 1997

Present: Shelby Clayson, Raney Ellis, Mark Fiegener, Mike Gardiner, Nick Michal, Marilyn Mitchell, Bob Steiner

1. Minutes of the October 21 meeting were approved.   Gardiner presented the Senate's response to a question raised in the 10/21 LMAC meeting – Did the Senate charge the LMAC to "develop and implement the plan to act as liaison with library and computing groups?" – and affirmed that the charge did <u>not</u> originate in the Senate.

2. The committee began discussion of a proposal from E. Barboni, a consultant who counsels liberal arts universities regarding issues of student access to computing (the proposal had been distributed by Ellis to committee members several days prior to the meeting). Ellis clarified the role this consultant would play if the proposal were accepted: Barboni's group would generate "hard numbers" with respect to the cost and benefits of alternative models of student access. In response to a question by Clayson, Ellis assured the committee that mandatory student ownership of computers was not a "foregone conclusion." Clayson and Gardiner both noted that although the consultant's fees ($10,000) appears substantial, the amount should be viewed as a small investment that could generate enormous cost savings in the future.   Steiner made a motion that the committee take a position in favor of moving the Barboni proposal forward. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. The committee began discussion of library allocation issues. Mitchell summarized the book budget allocation process and noted some of the institutional difficulties with changing the allocation algorithm. The impact of departmental differences in preferences for storage media (e.g., electronic versus paper journals) was also discussed. Mitchell recommended that consideration of changes to the allocation process be postponed until the 1998-1999 academic year.

4. Ellis requested that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting: "How should OIS manage the enormous demand for printing in the computer labs?" Ellis noted that the print volume is far greater than in past semesters, and he offered to draft and distribute some discussion points for a future meeting.

5. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Fiegener.