

**Report to the Faculty Senate on Actions of the Library, Media,  
and Academic Computing Committee (LMACC)  
September, 1997-May, 1998**

LMACC was charged by the faculty senate to:

- serve as an advocate for adequate funding of the library and academic computing,
- consider whether students should be required to own computers at some future date, and
- monitor the issue of supporting multiple operating systems on campus.

Throughout the year LMACC discussed a number of issues related to academic computing and operation of the library. The committee discussed the new organization structure of the Office of Information Services and the effort by OIS to make more uniform the two hardware and software systems used on campus. As a result of this discussion we learned there is no plan to change the campus to a single operating system. However, in order to better service a large number of machines on campus, OIS is proposing to limit the number of different brands and variety of performance standards and to place all machines on a university wide replacement calendar. During replacement OIS plans to raise the performance standard for the hardware and software purchased for both PC and Mac platforms in order to provide computers that will offer more acceptable performance to users for a greater portion of their life span. We also discussed the first year of operation of the OIS computer help desk service with minor recommendations for change.

LMACC considered the issue of whether or not the university should require all students to provide themselves with their own computer at some date in the future. Many students elect to purchase their own computer, however, campus computing facilities are still heavily used. At this time LMACC could not find a compelling reason to support the individual ownership requirement. This issue has also been studied by the Committee on Information Technology and could be one of the options considered by the Barboni consulting group, a group being considered by OIS to study and make recommendations concerning the future of academic computing at UPS. LMACC discussed the proposal from Barboni and voted to support a study of our academic computing facilities and services by an outside consultant.

At its last meeting of the spring semester LMACC reviewed a proposal from OIS for containing the dramatic increase in printing costs associated with campus computer labs and development of a responsible behavior pattern in student users of computer printing facilities. The committee generally supported the plan to provide students with basic printing service and a reasonable number of printed pages without charge but to charge a fee for printed pages beyond the basic limit. The plan adopted should be one that could be applied campus wide, including the library which has experienced a similar dramatic increase in the cost of providing printing service. In addition to containing printing costs associated with the computer labs and library, the goal of this plan should be to encourage students to use more cost effective means when collecting data from computer terminals and making multiple copies of printed documents. Finally, it was recognized the faculty also plays a role in this problem. Students are often required to submit multiple copies of documents for a class assignment. While the student should recognize the inherently greater cost associated with computer printers, faculty should examine ways in which they might encourage students to complete these assignments without unnecessary consumption of paper. LMACC agreed to help explain the growing problem to faculty and recruit support for the best use of computer printing services on campus.

With respect to library related issues, the committee received and reviewed the 1997/98 budget for Learning Materials and Book Allocation Budget/Analysis. We engaged in discussion with library staff concerning the rationale for current allocations. In addition, library staff presented a proposal for the collection development plan in construction. We were prepared to discuss the needs and developing plans for the Collins Library renovation with library staff and project architects, however, the meeting with the architects was canceled at the last moment. Given the importance of the library to the faculty, it seems appropriate that this committee review plans to improve library facilities during this project.

The last issue discussed by LMACC was how this committee is expected to 'advocate for adequate funding for library materials and academic computing'. We have become aware of increasingly unmet needs of both library and academic computing services to meet the academic needs of students and faculty. The senate might request this committee to systematically assess on an annual basis the need in these areas and to notify the Budget Task Force prior to its deliberations. In addition, we might be able to help in defining long range faculty goals for the development of these academic resources.

LMACC suggests the senate consider the following charges to next year's committee:

1. Define, specifically, how LMACC is to advocate on a continuing basis for adequate funding for library and academic computing resources.
2. Collect information from faculty to define adequacy and long range development plans for the library and academic computing resources.
3. Act as a liaison with the library staff in the review of plans for the library renovation.

Respectfully submitted,

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