Minutes of the Library, Media, and Academic Computing Committee

March 20, 1996

Present: Ellis, Greene, Hanson, Hommel, Lamb, Mitchell, Peterson, Robertson, Share, Woodward

Minutes of the March 6, 1996, LMAC were approved. Ellis reported that 82 faculty surveys have been returned. Furthermore, return rates from the departments indicate a reasonable, if not representative sample from each department. The committee then discussed ways in which the survey should be analyzed.

In addition to frequencies and other descriptive statistics for each question, Hanson suggested that respondents should be classified as either "light or heavy" computer users. This might help us identify what proportion of the faculty are using their computers for word processing and e-mail functions and how many use their machines for a range of applications. Mitchell added that we should look carefully at how new faculty use computers and if their needs are being met, particularly in respect to resources for research. Lamb recommended that an analysis that distinguished between research and instructional uses would be informative.
Share also encouraged us to look at the bottlenecks and frustrations which may have been mentioned at the end of the survey.   Ellis, Peterson, and Mitchell noted that these comments could be typed and coded for further analysis. Finally, the committee felt that an analysis of use by broad academic categories (science, humanities, social science, the professional schools) would be helpful.

Greene reported on the current efforts of the ad hoc Technology Planning Group. He mentioned that it was still in its initial phases. It had met once as a whole group and subcommittees had also met.   A whole group meeting was scheduled for March 21.

Ellis reported on a proposal involving Psychology, OTPT, CTA, and possible P & G for renovating space in the Howarth basement for a computer lab/ classroom. Psychology and OTPT plan to use the facility to teach statistics. The room is expected to be in use next fall, and Ellis anticipates 16 computers in the lab. General discussion ensued regarding the different emerging characteristics of electronic classrooms.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40. The next meeting is scheduled for noon on April 3.

Submitted by,

John Woodward