

## Minutes of the Library, Media and Academic Computing Committee

11/14/95

Present: Raney Ellis, Mott Greene, John Hanson, Chuck Hommel, Mary Rose Lamb, Marilyn Mitchell, Gary Peterson, Marta Robertson, Don Share, John Woodward

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM in Library 019.

Marilyn Mitchell introduced Mark Otis, a new member of the Library staff. Mark is in charge of the new Multimedia Lab established in Library 019.

The Multimedia Lab was established to provide faculty, students and staff with the hardware and software tools and library support for creating computer based materials for the classroom. Marilyn said that, because the lab is new, the hours of operation and the services provided are still in being determined. They will depend on the demand.

Mark acquainted us with the equipment available, which include both Mac and PC hardware, scanners, high-quality printers, a variety of presentation software and Internet access. Mark has considerable experience with multimedia development and he emphasized that he is interested in helping with any project that will help faculty and students become more comfortable and skilled with multimedia, including preparing presentations, creating WWW pages. He mentioned that most of the early interest has come from students developing class projects.

There was considerable general discussion of numerous details.

John Hanson said that he could foresee problems with actually using the materials in a classroom. The classrooms are not as well equipped as the lab. Marilyn pointed out that there are several Mac and PC stations in the library equipped with CD and videodisk players that students can use. Mark said that it might be possible to lend the necessary equipment for use in the classroom.

Mott Greene asked about the capability for scanning large amounts of data, such as books not generally available in digital format. Mark suggested that the Internet might be a good source for such data.

Raney Ellis said that Oracle is now beta-testing its own Web browser that has the capability of accessing Oracle databases. Because the University uses Oracle for administrative databases, this might be a good choice as a browser that faculty can use to access University administrative data.

John Woodward suggested that Mark present a workshop for interested users to acquaint them with the lab and with using the tools to create presentation.

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The minutes from the October 31 meeting were approved.

Raney Ellis next described some steps that OIS is taking to alleviate the problem of overcrowding on the VAX.

OIS has set up a new mail server. OIS staff are currently using it for mail service to test it. Over the next year or so, all users will be gradually moved off the VAX and onto this new server for mail. Next fall, all new mail accounts will be on the new server. This will require users to use some client software, such as Eudora, to access mail. This should help solve some of the access problems that VAX users are having.

Access from off-campus is still a problem. OIS has purchased 32 new modems to be installed very soon. These should be more reliable and faster than the 19 modems currently used. This will help but users will

probably still encounter busy signals during peak hours. Raney estimated that 150 modems would be necessary to provide service to all user at all times. This would be very expensive.

OIS is instead considering contracting with a third party Internet service provider. There would be no practical limit on the number of users that could access the University network. Interested users (faculty, staff or students) would pay \$10-15 per month for the service (this is an estimate based on an average 15 hours per month per user). Users would need a modem, the University could supply necessary software.

John Hanson questioned charging students for this access. He likened access to the University network to access to the University laboratories - the cost is built into the tuition. Raney Ellis said that on-campus students will still have no-cost access through the networked dorms and through the public labs. Off-campus students can still dial in to the modems for free. Fee-based service would be an option. Raney said that a Residence Hall planning group is discussing these issues and he would bring it up before them.

Don Share asked whether users would still be encountering user limits. Raney Ellis said that there is always a limit, but that he did not foresee a problem.

Raney Ellis said that he anticipated implementing this in the spring and that it would be publicized, possibly with a SUB booth.

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Gary Peterson distributed a revised draft of the faculty computing survey. He said that it was still being revised and asked for comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55

The next meeting will be 9:00 AM on November 28, 1995 in Library 134.

Respectfully submitted

Chuck Hommel