

Report of the Academic Computing Committee for 1996-1997

Members:

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This document summarizes the issues that have occupied the Academic Computing Committee (ACC) for the 1996/97 academic year.

I. Keeping Faculty Informed

- faculty interests are not adequately represented as some committees and administrators made recommendations concerning electronic information resources
- we encouraged faculty-deficit committees to drawing one from our group as a liaison member
- Robert Christina joined the Information Services Outreach Committee (ISOC) to assist in their efforts to revise the Interim Policy on the Use of Electronic Information Resources

II. Policy on Electronic Information Resources

- we met with the Information Outreach Steering Committee (ISOC) in January to discuss their draft for a policy on the proper use of electronic information resources at OU
- difficulties of defining terms such as "obscene" or "excessive" were discussed, as were the ambiguities of the phrase "in accordance with the goals and mission"
- the dialog was open, friendly, and constructive, but the overall process remains unsatisfactory

III. Desktop Standards

- we asked Jack Nachman to draft a revision of the document from the Computing Standards Committee
- the revision stressed that a user's choice in purchasing hardware and software would not be limited, but instead that support for some choices may not be available
- this position assumes the motivation for desktop computing standards stems from a frustration support personnel experience in attempting to provide resources beyond their means

IV. Desktop Computing Support

- we met with members of the Office of Training and User Support (OTUS) to resolve differences and avoid what struck us as an imminently dangerous situation
- we learned that OTUS is being asked by the community to perform a task that is far larger and more complex than is possible given their current personnel
- we concluded that major short and long term issues relating to OCIS staffing and organization should become a primary issue for the university

V. Web Standards

- web standards and the general format of web pages were explored with Geoff Upward
- we provided feedback to Anne Oliveira to assist her in the graphic design of the new OU pages
- ownership of web sites and procedures for the governance of web page contents, style and format remain unanswered

VI. The Future of the ACC

- we recognize that information technology is an integral element in the daily lives of all constituencies at the university, and that the needs across these constituencies are extremely diverse
- we encouraged the Senate Steering Committee (see 11/18/96 memo) to expand the membership of this committee such that at least one member comes from the each of the three areas of the college (Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences), that at least one member is drawn from each of the other organized faculties, and that the library be permitted to send one representative