

## IRC Minutes February 16, 1999

Present: Ken Hapeman, Leo Geoffrion, Amelia Rauser, Jane Graves, Mehmet Odekon, Mike Gittleman '02, Susan Zappen, Fran Hoffmann, Alice Dean, Karl Broekhuizen, Ann Henderson

### I. Minutes of February 2, 1999.

There were 2 corrections. Michael Clapper's name was misspelled and "Linda" Aronson should be "Lisa."

### II. Update on College attorney's response to the draft of policy for e-mail rights and responsibilities.

Wayne Judge, the College attorney, felt the document was reasonable. He recommend several modest revisions which the Council largely adopted.

Bob reported that Barbara Beck asked that the Council add to the section concerned with reporting suspected privacy violations the group, union personnel, and that alleged violations for this group be reported to the Human Resources Director.

Council members offered and adopted several minor revisions to the document. Bob agreed to incorporate those revisions, and then transmit the revised document to president's staff for their review, so the policy recommendations can than go to ACC for consideration.

### III. Proposed laptop computer purchases for all students

Leo reported the subcommittee had reached consensus and will recommend against requiring Skidmore students to own their own computers. They will meet again next week and draft an interim report.

### IV. John Danison's recommendations on supplying laptop computers for faculty will be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

### V. Database issues at Skidmore College

Karl explained the delay in our student information system database installation. A working group consisting of Ann Henderson, Joyce Bartlett, Phil Cifarelli, Ken Hapeman, and Stanley McGaughey chose to purchase a Student Information System from the Exeter Company on September 30, 1997. At the time, Exeter was developing a product that would interface with the Oracle database purchased by Skidmore for the HR/Payroll/Purchasing & GL functions. Since that time Exeter has broken off negotiations with Oracle and can not deliver the product promised to Skidmore College. As a result, the working group is looking at Banner (SCT product) as a second option as

well as becoming one of six development partners to work with Oracle in developing their SIS system more fully. As an incentive, Oracle has given Skidmore a 90% discount on licensing and a substantial discount on future consulting fees. Teams from Skidmore will travel to other sites for one week every few months to participate in a gap analysis. Within 90 days, Skidmore must decide which of these paths to take in order to select a SIS to replace AIMS, the current system operating on campus, now fifteen years old, and increasingly insufficient for the College information management needs.

Karl distributed the recommendations of the working group dated February 5, 1999 which was shared with President's Staff.

A discussion ensued on the responsibility of the Council as well as the process that should take place regarding keeping the Council properly informed. Bob asked the Council to think about it's function in the IT area and how much input the Council should have in making future decisions when plans change mid-stream. Karl stressed that the original plan for implementing the database was still intact, only the players have changed. The end result will remain the same.

Fran suggested that the Council's role is one of discussion and dissemination of information, preferably before the fact, but also after, to assure the community is informed of important issues related to deployment and use of IT.

Bob asked that everyone read the material distributed by Karl and be prepared to discuss the Council's role at the next meeting.

Chris McGill  
Secretary