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To: irc-list  
From: "Alice M. Dean" <adean@skidmore.edu>  
Subject: minutes of 3/2/99

Institutional Resources Council -- Minutes of 3/2/99 Meeting

Present: Michael Gittelman, Fran Hoffman, Bob DeSieno (chair), Phil Cifarelli (guest), Ken Hapeman, Chris Doherty, Jane Graves, Leo Geoffrion, Viviana Rangil, Amelia Raauser, John Danison (guest), Stan McGaughey, Mehmet Odekon, Alice Dean (secretary for the day).

1. The minutes of 2/16/99 were approved as submitted
2. Discussion of John Danison's recommendation that the college purchase laptop computers for use by faculty in the classroom: John gave a brief presentation of his reasons for making the recommendation, noting that CITS must currently bring computers to unequipped classrooms on a rolling cart. The bouncing causes many problems stemming from loose connections, etc. In addition, he believes that laptops would be better in that they would permit faculty to set up software the way they want it in advance, rather than dealing with a shared classroom machine. The recommendation was broken down into two cases: how best to deal with unequipped classrooms, and how best to equip multimedia classrooms. Concerns were voiced over possible unforeseen problems with a new system, and over unforeseen costs involved with issuing individual laptops to faculty. Many saw potential merit in the idea, and it was agreed to try it on a pilot basis.
3. Discussion of the college's database renewal planning: Phil Cifarelli attended the meeting in order to help clarify the current situation, which we had begun to discuss at the previous meeting. We are discontinuing our current relationship with Exeter software. Phil has met with Exeter about the transition, in hopes of deriving some value from our investment in Exeter thus far. We are also working with Oracle, and we must come to a decision as to which software to adopt within approximately 90 days. Bob asked what IRC can do to better inform faculty about this undertaking. Phil and Ken also discussed the inherent problems of trying to find a system that will work well.
4. Mehmet asked that our next meeting agenda include a discussion of IR-related hires outside of CITS.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Dean

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