

IRC Minutes
September 22, 1998

Present: Bob DeSieno, Alice Dean, Ruth Copans, Mehmet Odekon, Viviana Rangil, Leo Geoffrion, Stanley McGaughey, Ken Hapeman, Chris Doherty, Fran Hoffmann, Ann Henderson, Jane Graves

The priority for the first IRC meeting was to establish the 1998/99 agenda for the Council. Bob reminded the Council that progress was made last year by shifting IRC concerns toward large policy issues such as major budgetary concerns, educational objectives, and IT based strategies to aid in attaining those objectives. Bob reviewed several issues, that he had recommended earlier in writing to the Council, as topics for the agenda and asked for response and suggestions from the Council members.

Bob announced that the October 6 meeting would deal with progress and challenges in the installation of the new Oracle database system.

The November 3rd meeting will focus on the proposed college budget for the 1999/00 academic year. Leo reminded the Council that only preliminary information is available by the beginning of November. Bob felt it important to review what we have at that point, even if it is early in the process.

Mehmet proposed discussing the restructuring of CITS. He believes that combining the academic side of CITS with the Library and making one operational unit was worth discussion. Bob reminded the Council that the Hawkins report remarked on the apparent increase in cooperation between the two operations but not recommend combing the units. Council members were asked to again review the Hawkins report which is located on the WEB site. http://www.skidmore.edu/irc/docs/hawkins_report.html/

Bob recommended that distance learning and as it now operates with the University Without Walls be added to the 1998-99 agenda. The Council will ask Cornell Reinhardt, Director of UWW to participate in these discussions.

Mehmet raised the issue of equitable distribution of work-study students among the various academic and service departments on campus. After a brief discussion Bob suggested that faculty can explore this concern with the Admissions and Student Aid Committee.

Chris Doherty asked that privacy issues and intellectual property issues be placed on the 1998-99 agenda. This will be addressed by the Copyright Committee which is a subcommittee of IRC.

Leo asked that the Council explore the policy that would govern the obligations of the College in matters of supplying computing equipment for faculty and for academic departments. Stan suggested moving the issue to IRM for a first round of discussion.

Leo asked that the description of the new curriculum support position in CITS be added to the agenda. Bob felt it belonged in #6 "New strategies for support of information technology applied to the curriculum."

Ken reported that Resnet had 779 successful resnet installs with only 265 open requests left. The total number of installations could reach 1,200. Students pay \$15 per semester for a Resnet connection.

Ann reported that first-year students had completed computer literacy questionnaires and her office is compiling the responses.

As a result of this meeting, the 1998-99 IRC agenda include, those items presented to the Council in the e-mail message of September 2, 1998 from Bob, as well as the possible consolidation of CITS and Scribner Library, distance learning and the UWW role, and concerns for rights to privacy as they are affected by IT on campus.

The next meeting will be October 6 at 3:30 in Dana 181.