

Reply-To: "Kenneth E. Hapeman" <khapeman@skidmore.edu>
From: "Kenneth E. Hapeman" <khapeman@skidmore.edu>
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IRC Minutes 2/4/2000

Present: Bob DeSieno, Chair; Leo Geoffrion; Ken Hapeman; Joe Thornton; Ruth Copans;
Susan Zappen; Pola Baytelman; Roy Meyers; Ann Henderson;
Stanley McGaughey; Rory McVeigh; Michael Marx

The meeting was called to order at 8 AM by Bob DeSieno. Minutes of the meeting of 1/28/2000 were approved as submitted.

Most of the meeting was devoted to continued discussion of the CITS proposal to discontinue operation of the Skidmore modem pool used by faculty and staff from home to access the Skidmore network and the Internet.

Bob opened the discussion with the issue of whether or not we should continue to add new users to the modem pool until support for it is discontinued. He suggested that we announce a termination date for the service and advise the community that new users will not be added to the modem pool.

Michael suggested that this seemed unfair to new people and that they should have the option of using the modem pool up to the point it is discontinued. He further suggested that it could be confusing during the transition period to have new people accessing the campus network in a different manner from current faculty/staff from the perspective of technical contact people in departments.

Leo described the current state of the modem pool in terms of non-student users - 390 total users with about 2 new ones each month and a peak of new users at the start of each academic year.

Ruth suggested announcing in October with an effective service termination date of June 1, 2000 as better timing than any earlier date.

Rory questioned the need to set a deadline and Bob responded that we should make a decision in order to relieve staff who have the support burden of administering/supporting the modem pool.

Discussion about the advisability of getting input from faculty, staff and students led back to the need for a decision by IRC as representatives of the community. It was pointed out that students make a conscious choice to live off campus, and losing Skidmore support for accessing the campus network is one of the tradeoffs, while this isn't the case for faculty and staff. It was further suggested that there are potential liability issues for the College based on actions from off-campus locations via the Skidmore supported modem pool and that resources devoted to the modem pool will take away from other priorities.

Continued support for the modem pool at the current low level of quality was also discussed, with Leo strongly recommending against that approach because of adverse impact on CITS staff who become very discouraged about trying to support low quality services.

It was finally agreed, with some reservations, to work toward an announcement within the next few weeks of termination of the modem pool service on 6/1/2001, with no new users to be added after 11/1/2000. It was further agreed that this announcement should be accompanied by a list of

viable alternatives, a suggested/recommended alternative with steps required for implementation and other relevant information about connecting to Skidmore from an external service provider (i.e. how to use the proxy server). CITS will begin the process of creating an effective communication.

Susan then raised the need for another faculty member to serve on the copyright subcommittee. Michael graciously volunteered to serve.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 AM.

Respectfully,

Ken Hapeman

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