The Computer Policy Committee held regularly scheduled monthly meetings during the 1987-88 Academic Year. In addition, available members of the Committee were on call during the Summer of 1987 (this will also be the case during the coming Summer). The Committee is organized into subcommittees which meet independently to develop recommendations to be acted on at the meetings of the full committee. The Monitoring Subcommittee, chaired by Bruce Litow, addresses allocation of usage of the central computing facilities; the Administrative Subcommittee, chaired by Carole Allen, deals with needs in the administrative area; the Academic Needs Subcommittee, chaired by David Schultz, serves a similar function in the academic area; and the Large Scale Computing Subcommittee, chaired by Bruce Litow, is concerned with planning for the upgrading of central facilities.

Meetings of the full committee were largely concerned with the work and report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Computing, appointed last year by the Vice Chancellor. A preliminary version of the Ad Hoc Committee Report was made available to the CPC in the Fall and the Committee subsequently met on two occasions with Professor Watters, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, to discuss the issues raised by the report.

The Committee also met with Vice Chancellor Schroeder who asked the Committee to provide him with input concerning the Report. The evaluation of the Final Report is summarized in the attached letter sent to the Vice Chancellor on March 23, 1988.

Other activities of the Committee included: review of the Budget Document of the Computer Services Division; development of a questionnaire about computer use that will be periodically distributed to faculty; and development of a mechanism to deal with allocation of supercomputer time at the National Center on Supercomputer Applications.

1987-88 COMPUTER POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carole Allen (ex officio)  Barbara Morgan
Alan Baron (Chair)        John Reimer (student)
Dale Belman              Michael Rupp
Mike Calbaum (student)   David Schultz
Ronald Hedlund (ex officio) Elizabeth Sirles
Karen Kapke              Neil Trilling (ex officio)
Bruce Litow              Ronald Umhoefer
                          Jon Welstead
Dr. John H. Schroeder  
Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Dear Dr. Schroeder:

I am writing to you in behalf of the UWM Computer Policy Committee.

When you met with the Committee several months ago, you expressed your concern about the resources available for academic computing on this campus. You emphasized the important role that the Computer Policy Committee can play in ongoing efforts to solve the problems in this area. In particular, we discussed the analysis of campus needs that was being conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Computing and the proposals that were being developed to meet these needs. You asked the Computer Policy Committee to review the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee and to provide you with appropriate input.

We now have had the opportunity to study the final version of the Report, and we can forward our reactions to you. In our view, the Ad Hoc Committee has done an excellent job in their identification of the critical computing needs of the campus. Moreover, they have developed a balanced approach that recognizes a diversity of the interests and needs of the faculty. Central to their report is a plan for the integrated development of networked facilities at different levels of computing power—the mainframe level, the minicomputer level, and the microcomputer level. The Computer Policy Committee endorses this concept. We feel strongly that any modification that might upset the balance expressed in the Report—deletion or restriction of one component in favor of the others—will seriously impair the research and instruction of a significant segment of the faculty.

We view two of the more specific recommendations as being of particular importance:

Recommendation 6 asks that the recommendations of the report be monitored by a process that involves both the Ad Hoc Committee and the Computer Policy Committee. We feel it essential that the Computer Policy Committee play this role in the decision making process—as the name of the Committee indicates, we are the statutory university committee charged with oversight of policy pertaining to computer facilities.
Recommendation 7 asks that outside consultants be brought to the campus to provide an objective evaluation and recommendations for improvements in the central computing facilities. In this connection, the most pressing needs are in the area of research applications and we feel it essential that the consultants be experienced in this regard.

The Ad Hoc Committee's Report makes it plain that deficient computer facilities are a serious obstacle to the development of UWM as a major university. We hope that the Campus Administration will recognize the magnitude of the problem and will take the necessary steps to implement the recommendations as quickly as possible.

My Committee looks forward to working with you as efforts are made to deal with the unmet computing needs at UWM.

The relevant motions, passed at the CPC meeting on February 18, 1988, are listed on the attached sheet.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alan Baron, Chair
Computer Policy Committee

Enclosure

cc: Chancellor Clifford Smith, Jr.
Professor Kenneth L. Watters, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Computing
Members, Computer Policy Committee