COMPUTER POLICY COMMITTEE
Annual Report: 1995-96 Academic Year

The Computer Policy Committee met nine times during the academic year. The Committee met with Vice Chancellor Kenneth Watters and consulted with University Attorney P. J. Boylan. Issues considered and actions taken are described below. The minutes of the Committee are available on the university computer system ('help cpc').

**Committee consolidation.** The Committee studied the proposal of the University Committee that the CPC be merged with the Educational Media Policy Committee. Both the CPC and the EMPC recommended against merger: the issues considered by the two committees do not overlap; the work of a combined committee would be excessive; a merger would reduce faculty representation. As in the past, the Chairs of the committees consult regularly to avoid duplication of effort, and the committees continue to exchange agendas and minutes.

**Advisory Committee on Educational Technology Fees.** A member was selected to serve on the advisory committee, and the CPC heard reports on procedures for the assignment of funds.

**Faculty desktop computing needs.** In response to faculty complaints, a survey was conducted of Chairs and Unit Heads which sought information about access to computer facilities in faculty offices. The results (as of Dec. 1995) revealed serious gaps in support for faculty computing, most notably that 39% of faculty who use microcomputers either do not have one or deem the one they have inadequate; and that 41% do not have ethernet access to the Campus Wide Information System. The results were communicated to the UWM Administration. They may be seen in their entirety on the university computer system (enter 'help CPC').

**Campus data network.** The Committee is monitoring policy issues in this rapidly-changing area. A meeting with the CWIS project group of I&MT identified the need for a campus-wide structure and chain of command for coordinating the various home pages that are appearing on the World Wide Web. Related matters pertain to: support for the development of department home pages; the relation of personal home pages to those representing official functions of the university; and developing procedures for ensuring the accuracy of posted information.

**World Wide Web Policy.** The Committee reviewed a preliminary version of a policy statement under development by a working group appointed by the Vice Chancellor (the group includes a CPC member).

**UWM Strategic Planning Document.** The Committee forwarded a statement to the Academic Planning Committee urging modifications of the draft planning document: that greater emphasis be placed on the research functions of the university; that the document
address the major reallocation of resources needed to develop and maintain computer capabilities; and that the document address existing deficiencies within the area of computing.

**Computer-related provisions of the Telecommunications Act.** The Vice Chancellor requested advice about whether a statement from the Chancellor’s office would be beneficial. The Committee agreed that an expression of concern about the restrictive implications of the law is in order. The Committee was subsequently notified that a statement is being planned, one that will express the campus’ support for academic freedom and the importance of open inquiry in the academic process.

**Proper listing of UWM on Web sites.** The Committee recommended to the Vice Chancellor that a central office be established with the express responsibility for maintaining the electronic image of the university, including monitoring remote sites, correcting omissions and errors, and assisting departments in forming links to lists of professional programs. The office is currently being developed by the Vice Chancellor.

**Use of university computers for non-university purposes.** In response to a request from the Vice Chancellor for advice, an interim recommendation has the goal of increasing the awareness of users about existing university policy (that use of university facilities and resources are limited to university purposes): to place notices in General Access Computer Labs about the policy (the alpha login message); to require similar notices on networks managed by colleges and departments; and to distribute an annual e-mail message from the Chancellor’s office expressing the policy. This issue is under continuing study.

Committee Members

Alan Baron, Psychology (Chair)
Martha Carlin, History
Elizabeth Devine, Foundations of Nursing
Anoop Dhirag, Mechanical Engineering
Dave Edyburn, Exceptional Education
Benjamin Feinberg, Chemistry
Carla Garham, Information and Media Technologies (ex officio)
David Heathcote, Biological Science
Robert Jones, Graduate School (ex officio)
Magda Kandil, Economics
J. P. Kastner, Student Representative
Edward Mabry, Communications
Minnie Paetel, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering
Andrea Stone, Art History
Leroy Stoner, Theater/Dance

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