COMPUTER POLICY COMMITTEE
Annual Report to the Faculty
1999-2000 Academic Year

The Computer Policy Committee met nine times during the 1999-2000 academic year. Seven of the meetings were held jointly with the Educational Media Policy Committee as the two committees tested the feasibility of merging into a single committee. A procedure was followed in which joint subcommittees worked on the various initiatives undertaken by the two committees. Vice Chancellor Kenneth Watters attended one meeting to answer committee members' questions and to discuss campus plans in the area of technology, and Joseph Douglas, Director of the Information and Media Technologies Division and ex-officio member of the committee delivered several reports to the two committees. In addition, Bruce Maas, Manager of the Student Information Project (OASIS) reported to the Committees on progress in this area. Issues considered and actions taken by the Committee are summarized below. Minutes can be seen at the Computer Policy Committee Website (www.uwm.edu:80/Dept/CPC/).

Committee representatives to other groups. These included: the Advisory Committee on Educational Technology Fees, the Learning Through Technology Round Table, the Internet-2 Steering Committee, and the Remote Access Working Group. Committee representatives kept the full committee informed about their activities.

Technology Policy and Administration. Working jointly, the Computer Policy and Educational Media Policy Committees developed a reorganization plan designed to strengthen campus policy and administrative coordination in the area of technology. One part calls for merging the CPC and EMPC into a single committee the Information Technology Policy Committee. This new committee will serve the existing functions of the present committees and should strengthen the focus on technology issues. In addition, the plan envisages formation of a committee of campus administrators with technology responsibilities the Information Technology Council. The Council's task will be to coordinate administration of all campus technologies including monitoring of the conflicts and inefficiencies that have resulted from overlap of services. It is expected that the Council will consult with the Information Technology Policy Committee as well as other faculty governance committees on matters pertaining to campus technology.

Faculty and Staff Support of Computing. The Committees identified the need for improved support for the computing efforts of faculty and staff. A report to the Vice Chancellor proposed the development of all-campus standards for hardware and software. Although the report calls for increased centralization of computer services, it also stresses that this must be accomplished in a way that meets the individual requirements of different campus units and users.

Remote access to university computers. To ease congestion of the university's modem pool, the Committees recommended the immediate step of increasing the pool by 144 modems. In addition, the Committees undertook development of a much needed long-range plan that will maintain remote access in the face of continually increasing demand. A detailed report, submitted to the Vice Chancellor, identified the costs that any long-term solution will impose on
the campus and laid out two strategies: continuing to have the university serve as the service provider (continued expansion of the modem pool) versus access to university through outside service providers. The Committees recommended that the pros and cons of these options be discussed with all segments of the campus community. Following full consultation the UWM administration should decide promptly on a course of action. The Committees suggested a deadline of January 1, 2001 for such a decision.

Student Information System. Bruce Maas, Manager of the OASIS project, met with the Committees to discuss the installation of the new system. He provided detailed information about the progress that has been made, discussed reported problems with the PeopleSoft system, and explained what needs to be done in the future. He emphasized the need to maintain contact with faculty governance committees. The Committees recommended that consultation with the faculty be improved, and subsequent to the meeting, the number of faculty members involved in the project was increased.

Distance Education. The Committees asked the Vice Chancellor to clarify policy with regard to the status of distance education courses. The view of the Committees is that existing policies, although developed originally for traditional face-to-face courses, should apply to all courses offered by the university. In other words, new electronic courses must be initiated by department faculty, approved by appropriate faculty governance committees, and offered by department faculty. The Committees also were asked by the Vice Chancellor and by the University Committee to review a set of proposed UW-System Standards and Guidelines for Distance Education. The Committees' view was that the proposal fell short in two regards: potential conflict with existing procedures followed in conventional instruction and specification of the relation of the new policy to the policies established by the UWM shared governance structure.

Network Funding. The two Committees reviewed and endorsed the I&MT Network Funding Proposal. The proposal calls for allocation of funds needed for maintenance and upgrading of the campus network as a fixed part of the university budget.

Submitted: 07/11/00

Computer Policy Committee Member (*ex officio):

Mike Allen  Communications
Swarnjit Arora  Economics
Denise Babin  Library
Alan Baron (Chair)  Psychology
Allen Bell  Mathematical Sciences
*Joseph Douglas  Info Media Technologies
Scott Emmons  Music
Paul Gunderson  Info Media Technologies
Stephen Pevnick  Art
Leonard Parker  Physics
Kim Pemble  Health Sciences
Pamela Phillips  Spanish and Portuguese
Beth Rodgers  Nursing Foundations
David Schultz  Mathematical Sciences
*Alan Swatek  Graduate School
Patricia Touchett  Tutoring Resource Ctr
Dietmar Wolfram  Library & Info Science