COMPUTER POLICY COMMITTEE
Annual Report to the Faculty
2000-2001 Academic Year

The Computer Policy Committee (CPC) met nine times during the 2000-2001 academic year; every meeting save the first was held jointly with the Educational Media Policy Committee (EMPC). Four joint subcommittees were formed: Classroom Support, Faculty/Staff Support, Distance Education, and Internet Issues. Vice Chancellor John Wanta answered questions and discussed campus plans in the area of Information Technology (IT) at the second meeting (first joint meeting). Joseph Douglas, Director of the Information & Media Technologies (I&MT) Division and ex officio member of both committees delivered several reports to the joint CPC/EMPC. The discussion with the Vice Chancellor and the minutes of all meetings can be viewed at the CPC website - http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CPC at the time of this writing, but likely to be archived at the Information Technology Policy Committee (ITPC) website in the future.

Committee Representatives To Other Groups. These included: the Advisory Committee on Educational Technology Fees, the Learning Through Technology Round Table (LTTR), the Internet-2 Steering Committee, the OASIS Steering Committee, and the Technology Assessment Committee (IT Review Committee). Committee representatives kept the CPC/EMPC informed about their activities. One of the main activities was the LTTR's help in re-designing the main UWM web pages, and this led to discussion in the CPC/EMPC of the desirability of creating templates or standards for unit and individual web pages to ensure a uniform look and feel for the entire campus web. There was also discussion about what role the ITPC should take in web policy.

IT Review. The IT Review that UWM undertook this year dominated the activities of the CPC/EMPC; one of the meetings was given over to a focus group run by the consultants. The Review was led by Blackwell Consulting from Chicago in conjunction with the IT Review Committee. The committee had 13 members, 3 from the CPC and 2 from the EMPC, including the chairs of both the CPC and EMPC. The final report from the consultants (issued in April, 2001) can be viewed on the Academic Affairs web site at http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/ITReview/.

Merger Of The CPC & EMPC And The Role Of The New ITPC. Jay Moore of the University Committee discussed the merger of the CPC and EMPC into the new ITPC at an early meeting. The consultants recommended a new committee structure for IT governance, with overall strategic planning done by a new Council on IT, chaired by the Chancellor, and with the ITPC one of 3 other high level IT committees. It appears that UWM will generally follow this suggestion, and the chair of the ITPC will be a member of the IT Council. The consultants also recommended that the ITPC sphere of influence be Academic/Research IT resources. There was discussion in the CPC/EMPC as to what the ITPC mission should be, and how (or whether) it can balance its "assigned" position in the new IT governance structure with its role as the only Faculty/Staff Governance committee dealing with IT.

Distance Education. Distance education and related issues were discussed several times during the course of the year. The consultants hired for the IT Review declared that this area was not intended to be part of their review, but they did make some general remarks about it. At its April 9 meeting, the CPC/EMPC endorsed a motion from the Distance Education Subcommittee addressing several points, including the need for a campuswide reporting structure and adequate support for faculty involved in distance education.
Remote Access And Internet Issues. The Internet Issues Subcommittee studied the problem of off-campus access to UWM resources, such as electronic databases and antivirus software, and the CPC/EMPC passed a motion urging continued efforts toward convenient access. The consultants for the IT Review recommended upgrading the UWM modem pool to 56kbps modems. The CPC/EMPC passed a motion to this effect, subject to an I&MT study over the summer of the actual costs. The study was to be provided to the Provost, who would then take appropriate action. Both motions were passed at the April 30 meeting.

Classrooms, Labs, And Software. Campus computer labs (CCLs) were discussed several times during the year; topics included who does and who should run them, how well they are run, what software and hardware they have, how they are financed, and how many can be used for classes. At its April 30 meeting, the CPC/EMPC passed a motion that the Provost's Office should obtain more detailed information in its inventory of CCLs, and that in the coming year the Provost's Office and the ITPC should use this information to determine how to increase efficient use of these resources and to possibly develop campus standards for labs. Joseph Smith of I&MT addressed the CPC/EMPC on software purchase issues. At the April 9 meeting of the CPC/EMPC, a motion was passed endorsing the creation of a central fund for universal and some specialty software and the creation or identification of a governing body to develop policies for the use of this fund.

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