

## Minutes of the Information Resources Advisory Council

January 21, 2005

**Present:** David Anderson, Tom Bressoud, Scottie Cochrane, Joe Fleming, Mike Frazier, Sandy Mathern-Smith, Tim Miller, Seth Patton

Scottie Cochrane Reported that the Ohio 5 Library Directors would be meeting again soon. Denison is continuing to collaborate with Kenyon on the work re-design project funded by the Mellon Foundation. Two representatives from Mellon will be at Kenyon next week, which may provide an opportunity to begin conversations about future grant possibilities. The Library's Bibliographic Instruction room flooded over the holiday break. This event may, *felix culpa*, provide an incentive to proceed with the proposal to re-locate the BI room.

Mike Frazier reported that telephone service was uninterrupted during the ice storm. Mike provided an update on the Third Frontier project. The telephone company wants to look at their 40 poles which would carry fiber to Denison, and that work won't start until Jan. 31. AEP is ready as of 1/24 to issue a job to a contractor to update their 70 poles that are part of the project.

In an interesting new development, AEP may decide on its own to have a place in Granville where Denison could connect to the fiber network, thus lowering our costs and leaving us with a shorter run of fiber to maintain. It's not clear how this new development may affect the timing of the project, but it seems clear at this point that the project will not be completed during this spring semester.

There was a lengthy discussion of Terri Beamer's concerns about redundancy in the event we go to a fiber network and the fiber comes down. Joe Fleming described a strategy which would create redundancy using a different technology: microwave. In this scenario, there would be a "metro ring" which would provide alternate routes to the POP site. The more collaborators we had in the metro ring, the lower the cost. LACA is interested in partnering with us on this. Joe indicated that this alternate strategy could be in place sometime during fall, '05, and that T1 lines could be used until it is in place to provide redundancy until then. Joe was asked by IRAC to continue the conversation with potential partners in order to determine both feasibility and cost.

It was noted that Terri Beamer also recommended a service contract with AEP for the fiber network.

Joe Fleming reported on some ice storm damage to computing facilities in the Library (the BI room) and in Knapp 105. On the bright side, the UPS generator maintained continuous power in Fellows, with the servers up 100% of the time. The latest draft of the proposed budget showing requests for resources can be seen at <S:/Fleming/Budgets PROJECT/Resources/Y05 06 cave2005 draft 1.xls>.

The plan is to devote the 2/4 meeting to offering counsel on priorities within this budget.

Joe also indicated that ComServe was within a few units of having caught up on the 4-year replacement cycle that was temporarily put on hold last spring. There was an issue as to whether Econ was due for replacement, and Joe is looking into that.

Scottie noted that there are still issues with using Eres with Mac computers. Joe observed that this seems to be a software problem that is affecting all Macs everywhere, not just at Denison.

Seth reported on recent initiatives with networked multi-function printers. It appears to be time to make a game plan for these Ricoh/Lanier printers in terms of where to put them, how to fund them, who is responsible for them, what then happens to local printers, and how this might impact printing in the library. This would be a topic for IRAC to weigh in on.

Seth also inquired about staff use of the MyDenison portal, a propos of a new facility scheduling plan that is being implemented. What are the pros and cons of linking the facility scheduling utility to MyDenison as opposed to the homepage?

Scottie Cochrane expressed enthusiasm for initiating joint projects between computing and the Library: possible merging Help Desk functions, for example.

The meeting concluded at 12:30.