

**Minutes of the Information Resources Advisory Committee**  
**November 12, 2004**

**Present:** Seth Patton, Acting Chair; Tom Bressoud, Gabriele Dillmann, Eric Eilberg, Joe Fleming, Mike Frazier, Aaron Fuleki, Sandy Mathern-Smith, Tim Miller.

The meeting was convened by Seth Patton at 11:30 AM in the Barney Board Room.

Robey Holderith and Janell Baran from Web Services visited the meeting to demonstrate the look and feel of the developing Photo Directory. A directory lookup was performed via myDENISON on the last name "patton"; up popped the traditional text information on Seth Patton, along with the Denison I.D. number and the I.D. photo from the CBORD / Odyssey database.

The presence of the Denison I.D. number among the items presented led to a 25 minute discussion of what data should be available by means of the directory, who should have access to that data, and whether or not the person the data described should be able to opt out of a directory presence. It was the sense of the committee that ownership of photo data would probably be vested with area administrators that presently have authority over text data: V.P. of Student affairs for student data, the Provost for faculty data and Human Resources for other employees. Questions of ownership and policy for directory information were judged to be outside the domain of the Information Resources Advisory Committee and will be passed along to the senior staff.

Mary Prophet reported on behalf of the Library that database lookups were very slow. This instance is part of a general network slowness that was to be one part of the report from computing (below).

Mike Frazier reported that the telephones and cable are still working, but that the news about construction of the AEP fiber cable link to the Third Frontier Network was not as good. Fiber cable must be installed on some poles owned by Alltel, and some of that will have to be mounted on taller poles in order to meet construction codes. Pole changes for aerial cable and the need to bury more cable than planned earlier, may result in additional costs (15 – 20 K\$) and a delay in project completion of about one month (March 2005?).

Several items from computing were brought to the committee by Joe Fleming. The primary area of concern was Internet slowness.

The steps to improve network performance as planned at the October 15 meeting were reviewed. The new firewall blade is in place. The imposition of bandwidth caps on residence hall subnets during the day is still being implemented on a test basis. Individual user quotas have not been implemented yet.

Internet slowness has become a serious issue since the beginning of November. The cause is thought to be changes in the Columbus end of Denison's T1 lines made by

OARnet. A draft statement to the community about Internet slowness, a printing problem in the Fellows labs that was resolved and a virus alert was reviewed (and subsequently emailed to students, faculty and staff). Printouts of T1 line throughputs (from <http://netnotes.denison.edu> – “Current Internet Use Graphs” ) were reviewed. The imbalance of throughput for different Columbus end points<sup>1</sup> was apparent. [An experiment in shutting off the most heavily loaded lines by OARnet, conducted while the IRAC meeting was underway, may have helped to diagnose and address the imbalance problem].

Two computing action items were addressed as members with class obligations began to leave the meeting.

1. The Physics department had requested replacement of ten laptops for its Electronics Lab course. The computers in this lab had not been on the computing replacement inventory, so this request was seen as being equivalent to a request for a new lab. At this point, since there are no uncommitted funds in any computing budget, the committee did not recommend any change in its earlier decision to not fund the Electronics Lab laptops request.
2. The Modern Language department requested early replacement of 27 Macintosh cube machines in the Language Lab. These units are destined for certain fourth-year replacement in 2005 but are such a maintenance headache that the department requests that they be considered for early replacement over the December 2004 – January 2005 semester break. Replacement was endorsed if appropriate funding (Y05-06) can be arranged and if time (order and delivery) permits.

The meeting ended about 1:05 PM.

[ IRAC Minutes for Nov.12 draft v.1 /jlf ]

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<sup>1</sup> T1 lines #2 and 4 terminate at the State Office Tower and lines #1, 3, 5 and 6 go to the Ohio Educational Broadcasting building. The reason for the different end points can be traced back to the time of installation for the various T1 lines.