

Academic Senate Committee on Computing and Communications

The Committee on Computing & Communications (COMP) met on Monday, September 13, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. in 3401 Dwinelle Hall. Co-Chairs Dave Messerschmitt and Arthur Ogus presided.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dave Messerschmitt, IEOR, EECS, Co-chair
Arthur Ogus, Math, Co-chair
Ken Goldberg, IEOR/EECS
Terrence Hendershott, Business Administration
Ethan Ligon, ARE
Merrill Shanks, Political Science
Thomas Wickens, Psychology
Matthew Bunch, Undergraduate Student

Welcome and opening remarks

Dave opened the meeting by thanking all present for serving on the committee. Dave said that campus administration is amenable to Senate input on Information Technology, and that members who actively participate in the committee's activities can have disproportionate influence the outcome of initiatives and projects on campus. He reported on the Academic Senate leadership meeting, and learned that students on Senate committees have voting rights for Berkeley division issues on all issues that are routed through DIVCO. He also learned that official committee votes can only be made in person, not by email.

Introductions

Those present introduced themselves, and gave a brief statement of their background and interest in being on the committee.

Review of committee charge

Arthur Ogus handed out copies of the COMP committee charge, as it appears on the Academic Senate web site at <http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/committees/coms/COMP.html>

Dave said that the committee could take an active (initiating things) or passive role (responding to queries) in relation to the charge; and gave an example of the IT Strategic Plan initiated last year, which would not have happened without Ken and the committee taking an active stance. Dave asked whether others present are in agreement about this, and all responded positively.

Arthur also pointed out an error in the charge as it appears on its web page, and asked Sheila to see that the numeral 1 be added to show consistency in the numbers preceding each item listed.

Suitable meeting times this fall

Sheila Press gave the possibilities for meeting times, based on the Co-chairs' calendars: Monday mornings, Monday afternoons, and Thursday mornings. Various members announced their preferences and availability for those times. Dave asked Sheila to poll the absent committee members for those time periods, and resolve the best time for all. (Please see end of minutes for fall meeting schedule.)

Review of Minutes, May 12, 2004

Minutes were reviewed, and approved as submitted.

Seeking volunteers for service on the following committees:

Dave asked whether committee members could volunteer for the following three committees; the first is a Senate request and the remaining two are campus committees who would like to have representation from faculty.

Senate Committee on the Library: There were no solid volunteers for this committee, although Ethan Ligon said he might consider it.

Educational Technology Committee: Merrill Shanks serves on ETC currently; Ethan Ligon said he would be very interested in attending.

Data Stewardship Council: Terrence Henderschott said he might be willing to attend. Thomas Wickens said he could serve as a possible backup, although he is very busy as a new faculty member.

The following committees have representation from COMP:

Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation: Arthur Ogus
Systemwide Senate Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy:
Dave Messerschmitt

e-Berkeley Steering Committee: Ken Goldberg

e-Berkley Implementation Task Force: Dave Messershmitt

Sheila was asked to query the absent members for their interest in attending these committees. (This has been done, with the result that none of the absent members are able to participate on these other committees.)

Review of proposed policy and plan on Data Management, Use and Protection defined by the Data Stewardship Council

The policy was presented at a COMP meeting April 8, 2004, by Data Stewardship Council members Dennis Hengstler, Helen Kelly and Jill Martin. It has gone through revisions based on comments from COMP and other committees, and is being presented for further review.

Dave asked COMP members to review and discuss with colleagues, and then send comments via email to Arthur and Dave who will write a preliminary draft of COMP's response. The draft will be revised as suggested by COMP members at a future meeting, and forwarded to the DSC.

Policy on Webcam

Ken Goldberg described a project he initiated, the installation of a webcam with high zoom capabilities on Sproul Plaza, controlled by individuals who sign on to a website designed by Ken and his partners in research. The website address is:

<http://demonstrate.berkeley.edu/>

Ken said that his project has raised questions on campus regarding privacy, and he is now forming an advisory committee to address campus privacy and free speech policy. Ken handed out further information on the project. Dave said that perhaps COMP could provide input on the privacy issue, considering questions such as (1) assuming the webcam is available to all, should limits be placed on it? (2) should anyone be able to set up a camera in a public place? (3) what issues are raised by public dissemination of data? It was decided to add this topic to the agenda for the next meeting.

Ranking and prioritizing possible initiatives this year

Dave reviewed the following list of topics as initiatives that COMP could actively pursue this year. He asked that members consider these six topics and prioritize them according to first, second and third choices. Dave asked for any other suggestions for initiatives, as well.

- (1) Participate in academic aspects of the long range Information Technology Strategic Plan (primarily regarding research and education)

Dave remarked that the IT Strategic Plan was initiated by COMP last year, and is now being actively pursued by IST as an administrative activity with input from COMP. Ken, last year's COMP Chair, was asked to assist Dave in his overview, as necessary.

Dave said that a statement of Guiding Principles has been developed for the plan, which is available on the web. Last year a survey of Academic Department Chairs was prepared jointly by COMP and Merrill Shanks, with results gathered and summarized by Merrill. Next steps are to identify the most important IT opportunities and challenges for the future, and come up with a prioritized list of initiatives and operational improvements.

Ken added that COMP has not detached from the process, and that Jack McCredie views COMP as a partner. Ken said that there are a lot of meetings planned for this year, and Ken suggested that Jack be invited to attend a future COMP meeting. Dave noted that the Academic Strategic

Plan was felt to be lacking in planning for IT resources. Dave said that one of COMP's activities this year could be to continue involvement in the strategic planning process.

(2) Policy issues (e.g. student IT fee, email policy, computer and/or computer skills requirements)

Dave said there were many policies being developed, and COMP will be asked to respond. He said that the question is whether COMP wishes to devote any of its energy to actively pointing to policy gaps and areas where input is needed, or to actually developing policies.

(3) Develop guidelines for best practices involving computing, computing support, and administration thereof within academic departments

Dave remarked he had thought of this idea regarding the many different models in practice by departments with respect to how funding and support is provided to faculty and students. He thought that perhaps interviews could be done with various departments, in an effort to put together a set of alternative or best practices.

(4) Establishing, or being, a conduit for concerns of students and faculty to the administrative bodies concerning computing

Dave noted that obviously COMP would respond to requests, but the question remains as to how proactively to pursue solutions. He mentioned as an example the findings from interviews regarding best practices might reveal inequities in departmental computing, and an effort could be made to stimulate the administration to create a budgetary process to provide more equality in IT resources.

(5) Funding structure for computing needs on the campus (primarily faculty and students)

Dave called this a tactical issue; should COMP be proactive, how could COMP be proactive in systematically examining the funding structure for IT on campus and suggesting ways that the resources could be allocated more effectively or equitably.

(6) Information technology fluency in education

This is a particular interest of Dave's, who quoted the Academic Strategic Plan approved two years ago: "Berkeley should also develop programs to improve the competency in quantitative analysis and ensure at least basic literacy in Information Technology." (in reference to undergraduate education). Dave believes that literacy is not much of an issue today, but fluency in IT is. He defined fluency as students learning enough about how IT works that they can apply it more effectively in their lives and careers. Dave thinks that a multi-disciplinary group of faculty could define what should be done in this area. He proposed that COMP might develop a set of structures to make this happen.

Some discussion was held regarding these initiatives; for example, whether it is useful to spend time on the topic of funding, and the possibilities of a student survey to gather information on

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student concerns. Dave asked members to vote on the six topics; the following tally was made, with the following results (absent members polled via email):

Members at Meeting

TOTALS	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
First Choice	6	1	0	0	0	0
Second Choice	0	2	4	0	0	0
Third Choice	1	0	1	2	0	1

Absent Members

TOTALS	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
First Choice	2	0	1	0	0	0
Second Choice	3	0	0	0	0	0
Third Choice	1	0	0	2	0	0

GRAND TOTALS	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6
First Choice	8	1	1	0	0	0
Second Choice	3	2	4	0	0	0
Third Choice	2	0	1	4	0	1

Agenda items for next meeting

Ken recommended the preliminary IT Survey results compiled by Merrill Shanks be presented at the next meeting.

Information Systems & Technology has asked COMP to assist in making departments aware of the Minimum Security Standards for Networked Devices policy, which is available at:

<http://ist-socrates.berkeley.edu:2002/MinStds/>

This is a new campus policy, finalized after campus-wide review, and approved by the e-Berkeley Steering Committee. Guidelines for implementation are contained in Appendix B. COMP members decided to discuss questions such as (1) problems that may arise with implementation, (2) resistance to the policy.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon in room 3401 Dwinelle Hall.

November meeting will be held on Monday, November 22, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in 3401 Dwinelle Hall.

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December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 16, from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon in 310 Stephens Hall.

Recorder: spress “—at--” berkeley.edu

Committee Web Page: <http://www.eecs.berkeley.edu/~messer/Campus/COMP/>