

## **Information Resources Council Annual Report 2002-2003**

The IRC met in open sessions bi-weekly throughout the academic year except during January and the March break. It was chaired by Sarah Goodwin, Assoc. Dean of Faculty, and all meetings after the first one were announced on the everyone-list. Discussion topics were announced ahead of time, and attendance varied with the topics. Discussion generally was very lively. Minutes were kept at first by Flip Phillips and then by Karen Garnsey, DoF support staff.

Major topics discussed in the meetings, in rough order, were:

- " College support for discipline-specific labs
- " CITS' responses to crises in bandwidth and the email system, as well as other concerns related to campus-wide communications
- " CEPP's request for a position on distance learning, in response to a provided document
- " Cuts in CITS' 03-04 budget and their consequences for campus computing
- " Bulletin board and webforms to ease some of the email traffic (changes were eventually adopted and Fusetalk launched)
- " Support for academic computing more generally, including technology-enriched classrooms, new hardware and software, and especially needs for support for applications and training of faculty from CITS personnel
- " The computer replacement cycle: its pros and cons
- " Various ways of protecting the network from unwanted incursions: pros and cons
- " Progress on the rollout of Oracle
- " Copyright violations, gradations and ethics thereof, college responses thereto, as the strategies of the RIAA unfolded during the year and some of the student integrity concerns developed and grew increasingly grave
- " Information literacy: its meanings and its place in the Skidmore education, with a follow-up to CEPP as it prepared the vision statement
- " Email protocols and possible guidelines for email use, both surrounding the presidential search and as a productive part of campus culture (this resulted in part in the Fusetalk software used during the search)
- " Revisions to and coordination of computing-related policies, including the drafting of Information Technology Guiding Principles and related commentaries.

Discussion of all of these topics was lively, and it developed over the year as circumstances changed (for example, personnel devoted to academic computing changed as Beth Dupont took over leadership there; budget cuts grew deeper; copyright issues loomed larger; work on the policies grew increasingly complex and then receded). The IRC has no decision-making powers but serves primarily as a forum for different college constituencies to discuss matters of interest related to information resources and technologies, and as an advisory body for the Dean, the Director of the Library, and the Director of CITS. As such, it was a vibrant and useful forum, at which participants learned a great deal from each other.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Goodwin, Chair, Information Resources Council

2002-03 elected and appointed members: Sarah Goodwin, Bret Ingerman, Ruth Copans, Ann Henderson, Karl Broekhuizen, Flip Phillips, Bob Jones, Deb Hall, Michael Marx, Bill Roshia '04, Marlon Paisley '04, Dave Cadwallader '04, Phillip Anstey '06