

D R A F T

Questnet meeting minutes

Geoff

Thank you for your message re QUESTNET.

- (a) QUESTNET LINK RATIONALISATION. At this stage, the links being examined are mainly between distributed campuses of Universities in South East Queensland rather than from institutions to the AARNet hub. I will send you a copy of the report.
- (b) I am not in favour of policies which differ from the national AARNet policies but I cannot speak for Queensland institutions. We can and should seek to have policies debated and changed through the proper channels.
- (c) One of the problems relates to the version of the AARNet Business Plan under discussion. ^{at particular lines} At the time of the QUESTNET meeting, we were not aware of the contents of the September version of the Business Plan prepared by the AVCC Board and forwarded to the AVCC for endorsement. This document differs in fundamental ways from the final plan prepared by the AARNet Advisory Board.
- (d) One assumes the AARNet Business Plan adopted by the AVCC is the one prepared by the AVCC Board. Our recommendations on policies /guidelines for external access to AARNet will now be prepared in the context of that plan.
- (e) The matter of protocol is a difficult one. The members of QUESTNET present did discuss the matter and directed the Chair as recorded in the minutes. The following points are relevant:
 - (i) As members of the Queensland Management Committee, yourself and John Mullarvey would receive a copy of the draft policy (I think guidelines would be a better term) for comment before they were sent anywhere.

- (ii) I doubt if a Queensland Vice-Chancellor on the AVCC Board would refer the matter to the AVCC Board without agreement from other Queensland Vice-Chancellors and, personally, I think it will be up to them to determine the further action.
- (iii) In preparing any policy/guidelines recommendations, I would in any case discuss the issues with you as a consensus solution is by far the best.
- (f) As regards AARNet futures, there is no way that I can have a paper prepared before the AUCDC meeting in New Zealand. Also I think that it needs to be prepared having regard to the endorsed Business Plan and when more is known of the stake holders and mission of the proposed Research Data Network - Cooperative Research Centre. Recommendation 10 of the AARNet Business Plan recommends that AARNet further investigate models of institutional participation. I assume that this will provide the opportunity to consider the regional models. I hope the individual institutions independently or through regional committees will be given the opportunity to debate and contribute.

Best wishes

Alan Coulter