PRESENT

David Woodruff

Alan Coulter (UQ) (Chair)
Geoffrey Dengate (GU) (Secretary)
Alan McMeekin (USQ)
Ian Hunter (JCU)
Geoff Huston (AARNet)
Ian Jenkins (UCQ)
John Noad (QUT)
Graham Rees (UQ)
Shelley Schmidt (DBIRD)

APOLOGIES

Greg Barnett (Bond)
Peter Saalmans (AARNet)

1. WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.30 am. The Chairman
welcomed all the members of the committee and thanked them for
their attendance.

2. APOLOGIES

As indicated above.

3. ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

ONE ITEM WAS ADDED TO THE AGENDA UNDER ITEM 15 - OTHER
BUSINESS

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT COVERED
ELSEWHERE

5.1 Government Relations

It was agreed that the previously agreed seminar for the
Queensland Government should still proceed. While the format
is still to be determined, the seminar would be a half to a
full day covering use of and access to the resources of
QUESTNet, AARNet, and the Internet. Specifically, topics
should include the following: (1) gopher, (2) email, (3) VAT,
(4) IMM, (5) Network News, (6) Library databases (7) Security,
(8) Geoff Huston's AARNet Overview. A display and
demonstrations should also be organised. Shelley Schmidt
indicated that indicative numbers of two people for each of
the 18 departments would imply 36 attendees. It was also felt
that each attendee should be given a copy of the Internet
User's Guide.

Action: John Noad to investigate possible venues at or near
        QUT.
        =20
Action: Shelley Schmidt to talk to the Information Industry
        Board (IIB) regarding resources to assist..
        =20

Action: Alan Coulter to coordinate.
        =20
Action: All members to email S.Trace@qut.edu.au with
        preferences and unavailable dates for attendance at
        the seminar in November. Two days will be required
        to allow for both the seminar and the next QUESTNet
        meeting.
        =20

5.2 AARNet Disaster Recovery/Backup

This item is still being worked on. It is possible a report
will be available early 1994.

Action: Geoff Huston to develop a report on disaster
        recovery/backup facilities for AARNet.
        =20

5.3 24 Hour, Seven day week Hub Support

No progress has been made on this item.

Action: Geoff Huston to consider cost implications for the
        AARNet budget for widening the support provided by
        Regional Hubs.
        =20

5.4 Institution Voice Links

No report on this item provided.

Action: Rod Ibell to coordinate the investigation of the use
        of QUESTNet links to carry voice traffic between
        QUESTNet institutions.
        =20

5.5 QUESTNet/AARNet Relationship

This issue of regionalisation is being further considered and
refined by the AARNet Board of Management. Alan Coulter had
previously written to the AARNet Board on behalf of QUESTNet.
John Noad has been requested by the AARNet Board to further
refine the AARNet position for consideration by the Board.

Action: John Noad to keep members informed on developments in
        this area.
        =20

5.6 AARNet Affiliate Membership

Lengthy discussion took place on this topic. Specifically,
there was confusion regarding whether potential affiliates are
required to contact AARNet directly and become an affiliate
member or merely to "purchase" an account on a network machine
from an institution and thereby have automatic access to
AARNet resources without the need to become an AARNet
affiliate.

On advice from Geoff Huston, it appears that external
organisations are not necessarily required to become
affiliates. They merely need to acquire, from an institution,
an account on a machine that has AARNet access. Further, if
they are unsuccessful in acquiring such an account, they still
don't need a "sponsoring" institution to support their AARNet
affiliate application; they merely apply directly to AARNet.

Members felt that this area needed further formal
clarification and documentation.

Action: Geoff Huston to request Peter Saalmans to document
        and distribute policies and procedures associated
        with the Affiliate Membership Program to help and
        guide institutions in dealing with potential

affiliates.
=20

6/7. AARNET DEVELOPMENTS

John Noad had attended the AARNet Board of Management meeting held in Sydney on Wednesday 1 September and was able to brief the meeting on latest developments. To support his verbal report, John tabled supporting documents. Geoff Huston also provided detailed background to the developments.

6.1 Microwave Rationalisation

The microwave rationalisation proposal was unanimously accepted by the Board. The Qld component of the proposal involves the installation of 34 Mbps link between the Brisbane institutions with two remote links to USQ and Bond (2 x 2 Mbps) using existing inter-campus links of UQ and GU respectively. Implementation time scales are of the order of 8-9 months. AARNet need to now develop a detailed engineering plan. Therefore, it is now necessary for the Qld universities affected to meet to consider in detail the technical and implementation issues involved in preparation for later design meetings with Geoff Huston.

Action: Graham Rees to convene a technical planning session
       involving the relevant personnel from UQ, QUT, GU,
       Bond, and USQ as soon as possible.
       =20

6.2 Other Qld links

Because of the distances involved, microwave was not a feasible option for JCU and UCQ. The most cost effective way of providing the required bandwidth is using Telecom's Fastpac 2 services. These services will be introduced in parallel with the microwave proposals.

6.3 Charging Structures for AARNet

Geoff Huston spoke to his paper that was presented to the AARNet Board. The Board requested Geoff to develop further the option of charging for total volume in and out of individual institutions. The option recognises the different cost of transmitting data nationally and internationally. It is likely that trial billing to institutions based on this model could commence in March 1994.

8. SECURITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

It was reported that the AARNet Board of Management saw that SERT's role was clearly its responsibility. Further, to professionally proceed with the establishment of such a body under its responsibility, it should go to tender. Accordingly, AARNet are in the process of developing a tender specification. It is likely that the tender will only be open to Universities and CSIRO. It is hoped that the tender will be resolved by the end of the year.

Geoff Huston indicated that he didn't see any problem with the CAUDIT resolution that CAUDIT members would provide funds to help with the operation of SERT until the end of 1993.

9. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT (GITC)

Colin Clapper (Manager, GITC Services, Administrative Services Department, Qld Government, and Chair, National GITC Working

Party) and Warren Tealby (Associate Director, Computing Services, QUT) attended the meeting to lead discussions on this topic.

Colin spoke at length outlining the history and development of the national GITC initiative that commenced in 1989. GITC has been developed and revised in close consultation with State and Federal Government bodies and industry involving IT specialists, purchasing, and legal representatives. Unfortunately, the University sector has not been involved with developments to date.

GITC has some underlying principles as follows: (1) all government should (not must) use GITC, (2) GITC should be used consistently across all areas, (3) Government should be considered as one customer (but special discounts under special conditions are allowed), and (4) suppliers must be GITC signatories before the Government will do business with them.

It was noted that all new Federal Government PE contracts will be GITC based.

GITC is the most advanced in Qld and it is now part of the State Government's Purchasing Policy. Suppliers have offered their BEST price and that price must be made available across all Qld Government (provisions include discounts for early payment, volume discounts, etc). In Qld, Govt departments MUST procure under GITC unless an exemption is sought and approved. It is unclear if this mandatory requirement applies to Universities. There are over 200 signatories to GITC covering most of the IT industry except packaged software.

In August 1993, a new draft document was released for comment with revised format and comment. This document will be considered by the full working party in November 93 for final release Q1 1994.

The major initial concern for suppliers (and continuing concern for small suppliers) is the requirement to conform to quality standards. For universities, the concern is that while there may be many benefits that flow on to universities as a result of GITC, some suppliers are indicating that special education discounts will no longer apply because the supplier would be required to supply all Government at the University discounted price. This twist is certainly an unintended disadvantage to universities.

Another important issue associated with GITC is when universities are suppliers of services to Government (e.g., consulting, training). It appears that, for such situations, universities would be treated the same as any other government supplier and would need to become GITC signatories before they could supply (or continue to supply) services to Government.

As a result of the lengthy and useful discussion, the general thrust of which is captured above, the following main issues emerged:

=98   GITC should not drive prices UP for Universities;

=98   Universities should still have the freedom to acquire
        outside GITC; and
        =20
=98   What are the requirements and how should universities
        best address such requirements regarding GITC when they
        are suppliers of services to Government?
        =20

Action: Warren Tealby to represent QUESTNet on the National
        GITC Working Party.
        =20
Action: Members to nominate a representative from their
        institution to liaise with Warren regarding on-going
        discussion with Col Clapper and input to the GITC
        Working Party.
        =20

10. DIAL-IN QUESTNET ACCESS

Alan McMeekin introduced this topic. He indicated that, of
the 14,000 students of USQ, 9,000 were external of which 25%
were from the Brisbane and Gold Coast region. He would like
to see QUESTNet develop a policy whereby such students could
dial-in to facilities at USQ via a local call to modem-banks
at UQ, QUT, or GU. It was agreed that Alan should contact the
relevant institution directly to make specific arrangements.
However, further discussion resolved that:

=98   a charge of $50 per semester per student should be levied
        for students to have a dial-up privilege. This would
        include the establishment of a captive account that would
        automatically route the student to the intended
        institution.
        =20
=98   a charge of $300 per annum per client should be levied
        for external clients to have a dial-up privilege. This
        would only allow clients to access services for which no
        account was required (e.g., Library catalogue; ???????
        shouldn't we ask the Librarians first??)
        =20
??? I am not sure I have this exactly right; please feel free
    to suggest suitable amendments - Geoff ??????
        =20

11. QUESTNET'93 WINTER WORKSHOP REPORT

Ian Jenkins distributed and spoke to a written report to
members prepared by Merv Connell regarding the QUESTNet'93
workshop. While the accounts are not yet finalised, it
appears that the workshop produced a modest surplus.

Members who attended the workshop indicated that it was very
successful and valuable to participants. The committee
expressed its appreciation to UCQ and the organising committee
for its efforts in organising a successful workshop.

The issue of surplus funds was discussed and it was resolved
that any surplus funds should be held at one location and used
for QUESTNet-related activities such as the up-coming seminar.

Action: Ian Hunter to forward the '91 Winter Workshop surplus
        funds to John Noad.
        =20
Action: Ian Jenkins to forward the '93 Winter Workshop
        surplus funds to John Noad.
        =20

12. QUESTNET'94 WINTER WORKSHOP PLANNING

It had previously been agreed that the '94 Winteeeerrrr
Workshop would be held in Toowoomba. The meeting resolved
that:

=98   the dates would be 6-8 July 1994; and
    =20
=98   the theme would be Wide-Area Network Access for

Government and Education.
    =20
Action: Geoff Dengate to contact the QULOC (Queensland
        Universities Libraries office of Cooperation) to
        request a representative on the Program sub-
        committee.
    =20
Action: Shelley Schmidt to formally advise DBIRD of the
        pending '94 Workshop and seek preliminary endorsement
        and support.
    =20
12(a)   Systems Programmers' Workshop

It was felt that there was still a need for a strictly
technical forum where the technologists could gather to
discuss common technical issues and concerns. It was agreed
that such a workshop should be arranged for the '94 Easter
period.

Action: Ian Hunter to organise a strictly technical workshop
        for systems (and network?) programmers to be held in
        the March/April '94 period.
    =20

13. SUPERCOMPUTING

John Noad reported on the current status of the Mechanism C
MPP supercomputer project.

The tender specification (the first draft of which was
prepared by Coulter, Noad, and Dengate) has been refined by
the Joint Committee and, he understands, will be made
available to industry today with tenders to close on October
1. The funds ($1.4M) have to be committed by the end of 1993.

An initial meeting to develop an Operational Management
Agreement has been held but a draft Agreement has not yet been
made available for comment.

14. BROADBAND NETWORKS

Alan Coulter briefly spoke to the options for medium to longer
term technologies. He undertook to prepare and distribute a
discussion paper on this issue.

Action: Alan Coulter to distribute a discussion paper on
        Broadband Networks.
    =20

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.1AARNet Fax

Geoff Huston advised that the email fax trial will be
terminated on Monday 6 September.

16. NEXT MEETING

The timing of the next meeting to coincide with the proposed
seminar for State Government. The date for the seminar is
still to be determined but will most likely be in November.
Members will be advised.

The meeting closed at approximately 3.30 pm

17. TOUR OF PRENTICE

Following the meeting, Alan Coulter conducted a short tour of
the recently installed CRAY-Y/MP system, the AARNet hub, and
the recently refurbished Television Production facilities in
the Prentice Building.

Geoffrey Dengate
Secretary
QUESTNet Management Committee

--========================_7685836==_
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Geoffrey Dengate   Email: G.Dengate@gu.edu.au
Director   Phone: (61 7) 875 7745
Information Technology Services   Fax: (61 7) 875 7845
Griffith University
Nathan Qld AUSTRALIA   4111

--========================_7685836==_--