

MINUTES of the QARN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting held on Monday, 2nd October, 1989

Present:

John Noad (Chair)	University of Queensland
Bill Fisher	Queensland University of Technology
Rod Ibell	Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education
Graham Rees	University of Queensland
Mike Steel	Griffith University
Mark Williams (Minutes Secretary)	University of Queensland

SUMMARY of Decisions:

1. It was agreed in principle that some equipment and bandwidth could be ordered now to pre-empt the AARN, using monies already approved for the AARN. Graham Rees to make a list of items to be purchased, to be circulated to all QARN members for approval.
2. John Noad to make inquiries with the UQ finance section to ascertain whether the interest on any QARN money held by the University of Queensland from time to time could be kept for the benefit of QARN. In any case money should not be collected from member institutions until it is needed to pay bills.
3. Graham Rees to write to institutions which will not be members of AARN but are likely to connect via QARN sites, informing them of the conditions of connection, and estimated pricing.
4. John Noad to write to the heads of all QARN institutions informing them of the existence of the QARN and its Executive Committee, in an effort to have the QARN committees recognised by each institution as the bodies responsible for the Queensland Region of the AARN.

Minutes:

AARN Status

Graham Rees described progress to date in the formation of the Australian Academic and Research Network.

A submission has been made to the ARC for funds to establish the Australian Academic and Research Network, and a Request for expressions of Interest has been issued calling for submissions from prospective suppliers of equipment to the AARN. Registrations of interest are due in on the 13th of October, and a meeting will be held on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of October to discuss the proposals. Queensland will be represented at this meeting by Mark Williams in the absence of Graham Rees. It is hoped that by the end of this meeting, a preferred supplier of switching equipment will have been chosen. Failing this, Geoff Huston (Technical

Manager, AARN) will be presented with a very short list of suppliers and a list of actions required to resolve the contention.

Mike Steel inquired as to whether Geoff Huston had made any statements about network management or the establishment of a network operations group. Graham said that no action had been taken on this issue, but that since the management and operation depended somewhat on the equipment chosen, decisions on this issue were perhaps best left until after preferred suppliers had been chosen. Essentially, management could be performed by anyone, from any part of the AARN.

Queensland Regional Network.

Graham noted that money had been approved for spending on AARN establishment this year, and that perhaps some work could be undertaken before the formal establishment of the AARN. It was generally agreed that it would be a good idea to pre-buy a 48k link to Melbourne, provided that the link could be terminated effectively without the need to buy switching equipment before the AARN preferred supplier was known, and provided that the benefits of the link could be realised Queensland-wide. Graham Rees agreed to investigate this, and to furnish QARN members with a list of the required items needing to be purchased.

Bill Fisher asked that the cost of these items be invoiced as required, and also asked where any interest on moneys held by UQ would go. John Noad agreed to try to arrange that all interest be held for the benefit of QARN.

Graham raised the issue of AARN affiliated organisations such as Bond University, QIMR, and AIMS. He noted that ACSnet sites are being ignored for the time being on the basis that their access to the AARN is at the application level only. Charges for affiliated bodies were charged, and people were directed to the minutes of the last meeting for the current state of play. (An affiliated body with a 9600 bps SLIP connection would be charged approximately \$10 000 per annum, and would pay all costs associated with its connection.) It was resolved that Graham should write to all the bodies likely to have full affiliate status, conveying this information, and outlining the conditions of affiliate status. (i.e. they are not full members, they must pay all costs, and if they happen to be commercial institutions, the AARN must not be used for commercial traffic.)

Rod Ibell inquired as to the formal status of the QARN executive committee. John said that the QARN and its committees were recognised in a letter from the Vice Chancellor of UQ, but he did not know how it stood with other institutions. It was resolved that John, as chairperson of the committee should write to the heads of all the member institutions informing them of the QARN management structure, and asking that it be formally recognised as such. Copies should be sent to the Directors of Computing Centres.

Mike Steel raised the suggestion that there should be a constitution or some other formal mechanism for the resolution of any disputes that might arise. Graham recommended that any decision on this be delayed until it was known what, if any, structure the AARN was going to impose on its regional bodies.

Amalgamations

Bill Fisher noted that the Brisbane College of Advanced Education was to be split up, and the various campuses amalgamated with Griffith University or QUT. This would mean that the funding formula for the AARN and QARN would need to be recalculated. John Noad suggested that the Amalgamations would not take place until 1990, and that for 1989, the old figures would be valid. For planning purposes Graham proposed that it would be sufficient to divide the costs for BCAE according to the equivalent operating grant of each of the campuses. That is, Griffith University would take on responsibility for 28.4% of monies due from BCAE, and the Queensland University of Technology the rest. A full recalculation would be made when it was clear just what impact the mergers would have on network topology and when.

The Technology Quadrangle

Graham Rees outlined current developments toward a network for the Technology Quadrangle. The UQ Prentice Computer Centre has undertaken to make a study of computing needs and to lay out a strategic plan for the development of a high speed multimedia network in South-East Queensland. He passed out a draft questionnaire that will be sent to people in interested bodies.