

From: IN"G.Huston@aarnet.edu.au" 25-MAR-1991 12:04:35.39
To: aarnet-adv-board@avcc.edu.au
CC:
Subj: Unconfirmed Minutes of Meeting 1/91

To: AARNet Advisory Board members,

The following are the unconfirmed minutes of meeting 1/91 of the AARNet Advisory Board.

Geoff Huston

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH NETWORK ADVISORY BOARD

The first meeting of the Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet) Advisory Board for 1991 was held on Friday 22 February 1991 at the University of Sydney, commencing at 9:30 am.

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Professor Don McNicol (Chair)
Dr Robin Erskine
Mr Alan Coulter
Professor Peter Poole
Mr Greg Batchelor
Professor Mary O'Kane

Secretariat

Mr John Mullarvey
Mr Geoff Huston

Apologies

Dr J G (Iain) Wallace
Dr John O'Callaghan

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the third meeting of the Board for 1990, held on 26 November 1990 were confirmed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (NOT RAISED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA)

Members were advised that a number of items requiring further activity arising from the minutes of the previous meeting had not been completed in time for this meeting. Those items not listed separately in these minutes are:

AARNet Case Studies (Item 3.2.2, resolution parts (ii) and (iii))

A cross-sectional set of case studies and summary sheet be returned to the Board for clearance prior to circulation to sites / campuses. This item will be deferred to the May 1991 meeting of the Board;

AARNet to request each campus to provide information on their educational and dissemination programs in respect of AARNet activities which is to be reported to the Board. This item will be deferred to the May 1991 meeting of the Board;

Project Funding for 1991 (Item 5)

The Board was advised that the first round of a national call for expressions of interest in undertaking educational, promotional and developmental projects associated with AARNet was scheduled for 1991 would be undertaken in January 1991. This action has been deferred until after the first meeting of the Board for 1991;

AARNet Budget - 1990/91 (Item 6)

The Board was advised that the AVCC resolved to set the levels of institutional contributions to AARNet for 1991 at a level where there was no intended building of reserve funds for subsequent years within the AARNet budget. This decision by the AVCC was made within the broader context of the total AVCC budgetary process;

AARNet Access to Australian Bureau of Statistics (Item 7, resolution part (i))

The Board was advised that following further related work being undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) within their program of publishing and electronic dissemination of ABS data a formal approach to the ABS may not be necessary. This situation would be reviewed by the Board at the May 1991 meeting; and

Co-ordinating Committee for Intercontinental Research Networking (Item 8.2, resolutions part (ii), (iii), and (iv))

The Board were advised that the planned November 1991 meeting of the CCIRN in Australia was to be shifted to Canada due to the costs of the European delegation for attendance at the meeting. The Board was also advised that the visit of the US co-chair of the Coordinating Committee for Intercontinental Research Networking (CCIRN) was postponed until mid-year 1991. The approach by the AVCC to the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee (NZVCC) requesting the inclusion of discussion of AARNet and the New Zealand peer program, Kawaihiko, in the agenda of the NZVCC / AVCC meeting was to be undertaken shortly.

3.1 Staffing

Members were advised that advertisements for the position of General Manager for AARNet had been published nationally and applications closed on

22 February 1991. The Board was advised that the intended staffing structure within the AVCC was that the position of General Manager would report directly to the Executive Director of the AVCC, and that the position of Technical Coordinator, AARNet would, as at present, report to the Technical Manager, AARNet, which in turn would report to the General Manager. The Board noted that a selection panel, comprising of Professor McNicol, Dr Wallace, Professor O'Kane and Mr Mullarvey, had been set up.

The Board resolved to note the action taken.

3.2 AARNet Usage Statistics

Members considered a report indicating total usage of AARNet for the period 1 July 1990 to 10 February 1991, detailed usage for the week ending 10 February and application-based usage for the month of January 1991.

The Board advised that additional information relating to the total traffic levels for each member entity should be made available in future reports.

The Board resolved to note the reports.

3.3 Membership Agreements with AVCC Member Institutions

The Board noted that the majority of membership agreements have been endorsed by individual institutions to date, and the remainder of late returns are being followed up.

CSIRO have indicated that their agreement with the AVCC for AARNet is being examined, and will be returned to the AVCC for endorsement shortly.

The Board resolved to note the action taken.

3.4 AARNet Backbone Upgrade

The Board received advice concerning the change in the services to be ordered from Telecom Australia to implement high capacity facilities to service the South East regions of the country. The change to Megalink services was based on a technical decision based on AARNet requirements for reliability and robustness of underlying transmission services.

The Board resolved to note the reasons for Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales links being upgraded using Telecom's Megalink services instead of ISDN services.

3.5 Connection of AVCC Member Institutions

The Board received a report indicating that action is underway to provide AARNet connections to all current institutional members of the AVCC.

The Board resolved to note the action taken.

4. AARNet BUDGET 1991

The Board considered the actual expenditure for AARNet in 1990 and the 1991 budget. Members discussed the issues surrounding the unknown status of commitment from the Australian Research Council (ARC) beyond 1991. The Board suggested that the AVCC Secretariat may wish to undertake a presentation to members of the ARC highlighting the common role of AARNet within the research environment, and stressing the benefits of continued ARC support to AARNet. Professor McNicol also commented on the need to become fully self funding as soon as possible to ensure that AARNet continues to be in a position to fulfil the objectives and requirements of the owners of AARNet.

The Board noted an estimated operating surplus of some \$220,000 for 1991 after meeting initial AARNet expenditure commitments. The Board indicated that this sum should be used in extending the services and capabilities of AARNet in 1991, and requested the AVCC staff to prepare a revised budget for the next meeting of the Board which included such options.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to note the revised 1991 AARNet budget;
- (ii) to request the preparation of a budget for the May 1991 meeting reflecting current spending and known commitments and including additional expenditure to support further activities in 1991; and
- (ii) to prepare a 5 year budget indicating likely expenditure levels and likely funding commitments.

5. AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP OF AARNet

5.1 Summary of Affiliate Membership status

A summary of Affiliate Membership applications processed as of 12 February 1991 was reported to the Board. The Board noted that all standard applications were being processed via the AVCC Secretariat staff, while those cases requiring particular examination were to be returned to the Board for consideration.

The Board resolved to note the interest shown by outside bodies in wishing to join AARNet.

5.2 Anglo-Australian Observatory

The Board considered a request from the Anglo-Australia Observatory (AAO) to connect as a Network Service Affiliate member of AARNet, and a request for approval to connect through a notional 9.6Kbps connection. The actual physical connection is via a 48Kbps service through CSIRO's Division of Radio Physics, but this bandwidth was supported for local traffic to and from the CSIRO, not for AARNet access. The AAO requested that the Board consider their request to use a national connection capacity of 9.6Kbps as being commensurate with the actual requirements for AARNet access by AAO.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to approve the application for AAO to connect to AARNet using the 48KDDS service, but in recognition of the existing traffic levels to be charged at the rate applicable for a 9.6Kbps link; and
- (ii) to review the level of AAO traffic to and from AARNet on an annual basis.

5.3 Western Australia Tertiary Institutions Service Centre

The Board considered correspondence from the the WA Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) requesting access to AARNet and seeking advice as to the mechanisms of connection to AARNet. It was noted that the situation where an entity is a service entity for all, or some, higher educational institutions (and owned and operated by these institutions, the

status with respect to connection to AARNet is not explicitly covered in the AARNet Affiliate membership documents, and the consequent issue of whether Affiliate Membership fees are payable, and if so at what level, is not addressed in these documents

The Board resolved:

- (i) that no Affiliate Membership fees would be charged to the WA TISC;
- (ii) that the capital and recurrent costs of the tail loop to the WA TISC would be borne by the TISC; and
- (iii) this mechanism would also apply to other university admissions centres and service centres on other states as and when they apply for connection to AARNet.

6 AARNet LINKS WITHIN MELBOURNE

The Board heard a report from the Technical Manager and Mr Greg Batchelor concerning the current situation of links in the Melbourne Metropolitan region.

Members were advised that during 1990 the Strategic Foundation (SRF) of Victoria had indicated its willingness to fund a number of intra-Melbourne high speed networks as a part of a program of enhance the general

level of research infrastructural facilities in Melbourne. This action had lead to the detailed investigation of the installation of 3 microwave links

to connect Clayton (Monash University and CSIRO), Bundoora (LaTrobe University) and Port Melbourne (CSIRO Joint Supercomputer Facility) to the University of Melbourne. This project was dropped from the SRF agenda late in 1990.

This has left a number of outstanding issues unresolved, particularly relating to the requirements of high speed connectivity between the locations of Clayton, Port Melbourne and the University of Melbourne.

The Board agreed that specific proposals required joint discussion by the various interested parties in this matter, including the Melbourne higher education institutions, CSIRO and the Strategic Research Foundation of Victoria, before any specific proposals for AARNet expenditure could be considered by the AARNet Advisory Board.

The Board resolved to note that further meetings of the interested parties was necessary to resolve current uncertainties in the situation.

7. INTERNATIONAL LINKS

The Board considered a proposal to upgrade the capacity of the international link to the United States to a bandwidth of 256Kbps by mid-1991. Members were advised that current usage trends would imply saturation of the existing capacity by June 1991, and that the US partners in the link had indicated that they would also be anticipating an upgrade to 256K as being necessary in this timeframe.

The Board resolved to approve the purchase of 256Kbps capacity on the link from AARNet to the United States.

8. THE AUSTRALIAN SUPERCOMPUTER NETWORK (ASN)

The Board considered the (ASN) Request for Information which had been submitted to AARNet in December 1990 by Boeing Computer Services, with an accompanying request for any responses to be returned to Boeing in February 1991.

The Board considered that the information provided to date by the partners involved in the ASN is of inadequate detail to formulate an

appropriate position for AARNet to adopt with respect to the proposed ASN.

The Board resolved:

- (i) to recommend to the AVCC that AARNet should make no commitments to the ASN until further details are supplied by the ASN regarding their intended operation and role; and
- (ii) to recommend to the AVCC that a copy of the AVCC response to the Boeing Computer Services' Request for Information be forwarded to the Commonwealth Department of Industry Technology and Commerce for information, with a accompanying request for the nomination of a DITAC contact officer for further interaction on this and related matters.

9. ROLES AND OBJECTIVES OF AARNET

The Board considered a paper prepared by Dr Robin Erskine on the potential roles and objectives of AARNet. The consensus arising from this discussion was that at present the AVCC and CSIRO should retain direct control over the infrastructure and services offered by AARNet in order to ensure that these services are available to all members of the higher educational institutions and CSIRO divisions for the benefit of entire academic and research sector.

The Board resolved to continue with further consideration of this matter at its next meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates of the next three Board meetings for 1991 are scheduled as follows:

- Meeting 2/91: venue to be at The University of Sydney
Wednesday 29th May 9:00 - 12:30
- Meeting 3/91: venue to be at The University of Sydney
Wednesday 21st August 10:00 - 2:30
- Meeting 4/91: venue to be at The University of Sydney
Friday 22nd November 9:00 - 12:30

11. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board considered a request to allow the 12th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJAI) to have access to AARNet for the conference. A similar request was tabled on behalf of the forthcoming COMTAP 91 conference.

The Board resolved to allow conferences within the academic and research sector to have access to AARNet, and that all costs and organisational overheads associated with such temporary connections be met by the conference involved.

From: IN%"Postmaster@wolfen.cc.uow.edu.au" "Mail Delivery Subsystem" 20-MAR-1991 17:44:4
5.70
To: CCCOULTER@uqvx.cc.uq.edu.au
CC:
Subj: Returned mail: Host unknown

----- Transcript of session follows -----

554 <Greg_Naimo%central-gw.cc.uow.edu.au@cc.uow.edu.au>... 550 Host unknown (Authoritative
answer from name server)

----- Received message follows -----

Return-Path: <CCCOULTER@uqvx.cc.uq.oz.au>
Received: from bunyip.cc.uq.oz.au by wolfen.cc.uow.edu.au (5.61+IDA+MU) with SMTP
id AA06742; Wed, 20 Mar 1991 17:43:28 +1000
Received: from uqvx.cc.uq.oz.au by bunyip.cc.uq.oz.au id aa02146;
20 Mar 91 17:42 EST
Date: Wed, 20 Mar 91 17:42 EST
From: CCCOULTER@uqvx.cc.uq.oz.au
Subject: Re: Alumni Systems - RFI
To: Greg Naimo@central-gw.cc.uow.edu.au
Message-Id: <A19CAE382EFFC01E52@uqvx.cc.uq.edu.au>
X-Envelope-To: Greg Naimo@central-gw.cc.uow.edu.au
X-Vms-To: IN%"Greg Naimo@central-gw.cc.uow.edu.au"
X-Vms-Cc: CCCOULTER

Dear Greg, The University of Queensland has not yet decided on a Graduate
(Alumni) Development system.

Our preference is for a ms-dos based system and if possible one that is used
by a number of Australian Universities.

The Development Directors and Alumni Directors should meet and discuss this
(along with other topics such as matching grants).

The "Raisers Edge" from Blackbaud Systems U.S.A. is a strong candidate --
used by the University of Edinburgh as well as many US users.

My personal preference would be to support an Australian system provided
a number of universities are involved. We could then ensure that the package
is developed to meet the particular requirements of development and fundraising.

My regards to Juliet Richardson.

> From: IN%"Greg Naimo@central-gw.cc.uow.edu.au" "Greg Naimo" 14-MAR-1991 13:41:10.78
> To: ccdirectors-oznz@aarnet.edu.au
> CC: Juliet_Richardson@central-gw.cc.uow.edu.au
> Subj: Alumni Systems - RFI
>
> Computer Center Directors, Aust & NZ Universities
>
> Our administration is intending to establish a new Alumni database and tracking
> system, most probably on a Macintosh or PC platform.
>
> I would appreciate hearing from institutions that have already developed such a
> system, and if possible a brief synopsis of the areas covered in the
> application.
>
> I will post a summary of replies.
>
> Thank you,
>
> _____
> Greg Naimo - Director, Information Technology Services
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