

**University Computing Standards Committee
D.H. Hill Library
Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, September 15, 1999**

Members in Attendance:

Sam Averitt
Mardecia Bell
Phillip Emer
Hugh Devine
Pete Evans
Rodney Fowlkes
Mike Freeman
Gwen Hazlehurst
Steve Keto
Carl Malstrom
Ron Melbourne
Harriet Mermes
Bill Padgett
Scott Ross
Dan Steen
Jennifer Van Horn

1. Opening

Steve Keto called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

2. Approve July 21, 1999 minutes

The July 21, 1999 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Welcome

Steve Keto welcomed Rodney Fowlkes as director of the Decision Support Team. Fowlkes formerly worked with Northern Arizona University where he led the University's PeopleSoft implementation.

4. Special Topics:

A. Re-charge from Provost and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business

Steve reported that the e-mail and desktop standard recommendations have been approved from upper administration and a formal letter will be drafted to that effect. Keto said upper administration made some suggestions, but he did not have them available at the meeting.

Sam Averitt stated that Provost Kermit Hall and George Worsley want all user id's changed to a standard format. He said this change will involve some pain on the academic side and will not be something that his area can do quickly. Because of the impact, the change will have to take affect on an individual basis.

Bill Padget asked how many people will be affected by the change and the advantage of the change.

Sam Averitt said 6,700 people will be required to make the change.

Pete Evans said the University can run into trouble with departments and researchers that wants to run their own services that the University does not provide. He said he sees a proliferation of people wanting to run their own services.

Sam Averitt said his reading is that Provost Hall and George Worsley feel strongly about the policy. This is a University policy and IT and the University departments will adhere to it.

Dan Steen reported that the policy is all right with him so long as the deans and department heads are aware of it as a mandate instead of a directive.

Sam Averitt said Provost Hall and George Worsley heard the argument, saw the recommendations and chose to make changes.

Bill Padgett said the administration's input would have been helpful with the process in the beginning stages.

Ron Melbourne commented that the standard procedure is for the subcommittee to come up with a recommendation to present to upper administration.

Phil Emer commented that a backlash will occur if the University stated that faculty and staff can not have an alias. People will object to having their id's changed and there will be a significant backlash from it, he said.

Ron Melbourne commented that a standardized procedure has always been in existence.

Pete Evans said the perceived burden is that standardization is going to be a problem.

Phil Emer said the University should let attribution take its course and as people leave the University, delete their id's.

Bill Padgett suggested keeping employees' current id's for a period of time in a database to help out the University Computing Standards Committee.

Mardecia Bell said the subcommittee that generated the recommendations should be brought back together to look at an implementation schedule.

Bill Padgett volunteered Libby Habeck to participate in the committee.

- B. Network Security Subcommittee: Pete Evans
No report was given. Evans stated he will have some issues in November to discuss.

5. Data and Data Access Standards: Mardecia Bell

Reported that the subcommittee met last week and the biggest concern was getting the data and information needed from the PeopleSoft tables so that colleges could use their individual systems for reports and specific information. Reported that committee members are in the process of creating views or sets of tables for the colleges to see the PeopleSoft information. In turn, the colleges will be able to feed it to individual departmental systems. This task should be completed by the end of the month.

6. User Authentication: Mardecia Bell

Reported that she will reconvene subcommittee to look at implementation of the email and id standards. Will compile a list of old members and solicit new members to take part in the implementation.

7. Communication: Phil Emer and Jennifer Van Horn

Van Horn reported that a subset of the University Computing Standards Committee met with Ed Rogers of Telecommunications to evaluate and to make recommendations for the proposed new wiring standard for the University, UWS 2.0. Van Horn represented the following basic tenets of the standards to the University Computing Standards Committee for adoption.

- The new standard cable bundle would consist of three Cat6 cables with the upper left jack designated for voice connections where needed. The two right side jacks would be designated for data connections with the lower left position blank.

- The existing “quad” outlet used in computer labs would be replaced by standard faceplates. For economy sake, pathways serving outlets in computer labs might be condensed into larger units.
- Two optional cables to the above bundle would include either an RG6 video cable or a 4 strand fiber cable with ST connectors to locations where needed.
- The riser cable system used to interconnect telecom rooms would consist of both single and multimode fiber, one broadband cable, and UTP voice riser cable only.
- Once industry standards are written for the new double density fiber connector currently under development, NCSU would add this to the standard to replace ST connectors.
- The current building entrance fiber cable would remain an 18/18 hybrid cable.
- The system would be based around the Krone/Belden/Siecor “Symphony” system for all cabling, faceplates, jacks, and cross-connect panels.
- All pathway system requirements would remain unchanged from UWS 1.3.
- Only manufacturer certified contractors or in house technicians would be allowed to install the new cabling. This also would apply to new buildings. This is the only way that new wiring will be covered by the 20 year manufacturer’s full warranty.
- The format of the new standard will be based on the proposed Division 17 of the CSI Master Format.
- New policies governing auxiliary building systems and their interconnection with the telecommunications infrastructure would be included in the wiring standard (security, fire alarm, building automation, card readers, etc.).

Carl Malstrom moved to accept the above recommendations. The University Computing Standards Committee unanimously voted to accept and adopt the recommendations.

Sam Averitt introduced Phil Emer as the new director of NCState.Net. Emer gave a brief overview of NCState.Net’s upcoming projects including the rebuilding of the department’s hubs and backbones and reducing the number of backbone technology to Ethernet for standardization.

8. Electronic mail/directory services: Gwen Halzehr

Reported that NCS will complete migration from GroupWise 4.0 to GroupWise 5.0. Two colleges are also looking to distribute GroupWise 5 to their faculty as well as administration staff.

Steve Keto reported that the Provost and the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Business want the e-mail system to be reexamined. He stated the current number of e-mail systems (6 to 8) on campus need to be decreased to one or two.

9. PeopleSoft Implementation: Ron Melbourne/ Rodney Fowlkes

Melbourne presented a brief summary of the September 13, 1999 PeopleSoft Update.

Human Resources: Reported that the Labor Distribution Icon - “PSLabor” will be available for campus on Thursday, September 16. Reported that problems with benefits in the July Labor Distribution are being resolved by the Implementation Team. Also reported that the labor distribution and reallocation modules remain a priority for the technical and functional staff. The functionality is expected to be in place soon, but an exact date is not available.

Dan Steen made the comment that employees in his area have had to take time off from work because of the stress associated with not being able to get work done on the system.

Student System: Melbourne reported that Mardecia Bell attended the PeopleSoft User’s Conference and found out that the combined Student Administration and the Human Resources systems will be released as separate systems in version 8 which is expected to be released the end of the fourth quarter of Year 2000.

Performance: Benchmarking still needs to be completed. Reported that the slow performance in Human Resources processes had to do with indexes. This issue has been resolved. Reported that issues dealing with screen loads in PeopleSoft Human Resources and Financials are being looked at. Also reported that the PeopleSoft operating system, Solaris, will be updated during the weekend of Oct. 30-31. Teams are also in the process of identifying performance tools.

Sam Averitt stated the Centennial Networking Lab is performing network and service testing. A report will be given at the next University Computing Standards meeting. Reported that the network phase is presently being done and will be done next week.

10. Other Issues: Committee Members

Pete Evans reported that since the last University Computing Standards Committee, a distance learning group has been created. Will have a report to present at next meeting.

Sam Averitt reported that the Provost approved of the Learning Technologies Service. Joanne Dehoney is the new director. She will report to Information Technology.