CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH & INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

WINTER,1986 MEETING   
FEBRUARY 13 & 14, 1986

California State University: San Bernardino   
San Bernardino, California

Attendance: John Korey, Pomona; Penny Crane, ISG; Chuck Wilmot, Chancellor's Office; Dan Graves, Hayward; Gene Turner, Northridge; Hal Hubbard, Long Beach, Charlene Leonard, San Jose, Dick Shaffer, San Luis Obispo; Ed Nelson, Fresno; Ted Anagnoson, Los Angeles; Larry Giventer, Stanislaus; Jeff Johnson, ISG; Jonah Mills, ISG; Bruce Haston, Humboldt; Don Dixon, Sonoma; Jim Ross, Bakersfield.

1. Chuck Wilmot reported on the progress of the Administrative Information System (AIMS), and upon the campus installation of the CYBER 800 series machines. AIMS has not yet taken final form, and there is considerable speculation on the probability of its long term success.

On other items, he reported on the lack of faculty development funds within the 1986-87 budget. The amount received "will be the same as last year, and represents a considerable decrease from the amount of funding requested". The implication for the Council is a lack of Chancellor's Office funding for the SSRIC faculty development workshop proposal.

1. Penny Crane, in the report from the Division of Information Systems, repeated previous comments that "the budget news is not good." The Trustee's had reportedly asked for approximately $8 million in funding for student access, and $5 million for faculty access. The Governor's budget removed all these funds.

In discussion, Penny reported that the UC System has made access to computing its number one priority in using lottery funds. The CSU has argued that this is a general fund   
activity: a position which seemed to win initial support from the Department of Finance, but which was not carried over into the final Governor' budget.

Chuck Wilmot added that while there was general dissatisfaction with the Price Waterhouse Report, Finance was using it to raise a number of questions about computer support and future directions within the CSU. He added, during discussion, that both the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Department of Finance were suggesting that the Gann Expenditure limit (Proposition #4) would be operable in 1986-87, and would likewise impact support for instructional computing.

Penny also discussed developments in negotiating of site licensing for micro-computer software. To date she sees this process as being relatively unsuccessful. The short range "solution" developed by DIS Director Thomas West, is that each campus should receive $50 per campus micro. A total of $190,000. is available for campus allocation: the formula, however, rewards those campuses which already have made the shift to micros, but punishes further campuses which have been unable to afford these purchases. In a related matter, she reported that the Academic Computer Planning Committee did not seem willing to involve itself in discussing or negotiating the matter of site licenses,

Installation of the Prime "super mini" has been completed on all Campuses except Humboldt. Software has now been ordered, although there appears to be extreme variation in how vendors use the system. For example, SAS and SAS-Graphy have both been ordered, but neither seems to run well. Part of the problem is that the company which distributes SAS is not used to dealing with the CSU. Version Five of SAS is not ready for distribution to Prime sites, and may be ready by April. Penny reported that she is "confident" that Version Four will be available "soon".

Chairman Giventer raised questions concerning documentation of the Prime and related software. Penny acknowledged the concern. The computer centers will be receiving documentation, but individual faculty and student users "will be on their own."

General discussion and agreement followed on having a SAS workshop for the Council, perhaps as early as Fall.

Penny did report that Mini-tab has been bought, and will soon be available at each Prime site. Version 5.1 runs on both the Prime and VAX, and has graphic capability. It is currently in the final testing phase.

Dick Schaffer raised a general concern about transfer of data between the Prime and CYBER, and Penny noted that CDC and Prime are "working on this". Ted Anagnoson voiced concerns about error checking in transfer of data, and Jeff Johnson noted that DIS now has a working version of Kermit for the Prime.

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Penny also noted that an extensive graphics package has been ordered for the Prime, and Larry Giventer requested the ISG Newsletter devote a portion of an upcoming issue to describing the use and operation of these programs.

3). Other DIS report topics included:

* Contract for CDC has been extended through 1989, and the Academic Computer Planning Committee is looking at ideas on where we go from here.
* Jonah Mills reported that Pat Curtis, a recent arrival at ISG, will take over support of the Field Data sets. Jonah will continue to supply backup.
* We have continuing problems with micro fiche. Council   
  members needing specific fiche should request it via electronic mail to Jonah. (CSUDB/SUDCDB should indicate what is available -- these are current to two years ago)
* A brief report was given on the Gilspy & Falkner report on Academic Computing in the CSU. While there is a scheduled report of the consulting firm's findings to the Academic Computer Planning Committee, key items seemed to be:
* that there was a need for a central computing facility, especially for storage and distribution of academic data.
* academic and administrative computing should be seperate at the campus level.
* IBM and VAX resources should be added to instructional computing facilities.

The firm appeared to have some problem dealing with the diversity of the 19 campus system. In addition there appeared to be a lack of distinction between the general functions of DIS and the specific support functions of ISG. Specific recommendations by the firm included:

* suggestions to establish a variety of advisory groups (these are now being implemented).
* that there be more access to other systems and Universities.
* that faculty and students have access to super computer facilities.

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1. The Council also received a report on the Gloria Rummels memorial. With monies received from the ISG Staff as a tribute to Gloria, the Council unanimously voted to establish the Gloria J. Rummels award to be given annually at the Student Research Conference for the best paper using Field, ICPSR or Census data.
2. In other DIS related business, Jeff Johnson reported that:

- limits on the CYBER still are a major problem, and account for about one-half the consultation he provides. Council members were advised to insure that students and faculty users were sufficiently validated to use both SPSS and Censpac.

* General Social Survey 1985 (GSS85) is available in the GSS dataset 1972-1985 (cumulative). Codebooks are being reproduced, and will be available in March.
* On behalf of Gary Jones, Jeff distributed information on SPSS-PC documentation.
* Jeff also indicated that the SETUPS for the 1984 Election has been ordered, and will be mounted on disk. The older SETUPS will not be removed.
* Bitnet problems should be addressed to Pat Curtis at ISG.

1. Dick Schafer reported on the Summer Workshops. The   
   Council's proposal has been modified in accordance with previous Chancellor's Office suggestions, but there has been no response. General dissatisfaction was expressed over the   
   lack of support (and follow through) by the CSU:Foundation.

A committee was formed to continue work on both the proposal and seeking funding. John Korey would take over   
responsibility, with assistance from Ted Anognoson and Dick Schafer. Appreciation for Dick's extensive work on the   
project was noted.

1. The Student Research Conference report indicated that the planning was progressing well, and that promotional materials would be distributed in March. A committee to review student papers was formed, and consisted of Elliott Barkan, John Kory, and Paul Strand (chair). The deadline to submit papers was set as April 4th.

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1. Elliott Barkan reported that the Field Committee had received only one proposal for the Fellowship, and had no student internship applicants. Discussion developed over whether the student internship should be in the Fall or Spring, and there seemed a general consensus that Fall was easier on the Student. The Council voted to re-advertise the internship for the Fall. Materials were to be distributed to ORs by April 15, and interested students were directed to respond to Elliott.
2. Council Workshop suggestions for 1986-87 include:

* workshop on SAS
* SPSS-X training
* Field workshop

Chairman Larry Giventer, in consultation with the 1986-87 Chair will announce the details at the Spring meeting.

10).The Council heard a report by Professor Gordon Stanton, CSU: San Bernardino (Education) regarding the Civic Education Enhancement Project. While there was little direct overlap with the Council's activities, individual members expressed an interest in both the project's objectives and materials. The project is primarily oriented toward providing high school credential candidates information about civic values, and more information is available from Professor Stanton.

11).Elliott Barkan was elected as Chair of the Social Science Research and Instructional Council for the 1986-87 Academic Year.

12).Sites and dates for the 1986-87 Council meetings are as follows:

* Fall October 23-24 Humboldt State University
* Winter February 12-13 Northridge
* Spring April 30-May 1 Sonoma State   
  (Research Conference)

Respectfully submitted:   
5/1/86

Don Dixon,   
Scribe

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