

# **Academic Computer Policy Board**

## **Meeting of November 25, 2002**

**Present:** Bjorklund, Lembke, McKelvey, Peters  
**Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes of 18 November 2002 were approved as amended.

### **Secure Faculty-Only Electronic Communications**

A substantial part of the meeting was given over to a discussion of electronic communications among the wider St. Olaf faculty. This was in response to a recent controversy involving a campuswide faculty discussion, over the stolaf-faculty email alias, which contained contents which could have been hurtful if shared beyond the faculty community.

Part of the concern is that the stolaf-faculty email alias includes many administrators, AAAs and other people whose status as faculty might be questioned by some. In response to these concerns, Jim May's office set up a faculty discussion group using the Motet system, a system originally purchased by the college to encourage discussions among alumni.

Since Motet is not an internal St. Olaf system, it is managed by personnel who are not St. Olaf employees. Any such system can receive and archive sensitive material that might come up in free ranging faculty discussions. And, there is no content policy for the new discussion list.

Lastly, it is not clear that a Web-based threaded conversation will necessarily solve the problem of facilitating faculty discussion of sensitive material. Participants will have to specifically look for particular messages. This may reduce the number of faculty actively participating in the discussions. And, lack of a clear policy on precisely who will have access to such discussions remains a consideration. Lastly, the possibility of cut and paste redistribution of selected messages remains.

No specific action was taken nor recommendations made. Monitoring of the situation will continue.

### **Privacy Memo**

Roberta will pass the electronic privacy memo by Arnie Ostebee for his comments. The letter eventually sent to the entire St. Olaf community will include a section indicating that we (ACPB) are currently writing privacy policies. The final draft will be distributed after break.

### **Fall Computing Requests**

- Audio/Visual: Roberta passed around for review the IIT recommendations regarding Audio/Visual equipment requests. After discussion, the recommendations were approved as submitted.

- Classroom Equipment: Roberta passed around for review the IIT recommendations regarding Classroom Equipment requests. After discussion, the recommendations were approved as submitted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve McKelvey  
Acting Secretary