About This Issue

This is the first in a series of occasional mailings we plan to make on the Madison campus. These Bulletins will be published as needed to highlight trends, policies, and funding sources for computing and telecommunications.

Our mailing list currently includes Deans, Directors, and Department Chairpersons. Please circulate this to those you think will get the most good out of it—persons who are preoccupied with the purchase, care, feeding, and use of your computer or communications equipment. If you got this issue second or third-hand, call Connie Linehan at 262-8874 and ask to be placed on our mailing list.

Important articles inside this issue describe the UW-Madison's relationship with a Carnegie-funded consortium that may be a source for personal computer software development funds, and current UW-Madison guidelines for approval and purchase of computer telecommunications-related equipment and services. Contact Dave Brown to suggest helpful topics you would like to see covered in future Bulletins.

About This Office

Office of Information Technology

"Hi! — We're from the OIT, and we're here to help you," goes the third line of a widely-told story about society's three greatest prevarications. We're taking the line seriously.

This office was set up starting July 1, 1983, when Tad Pinkerton was asked to continue his appointment as special assistant to the Chancellor and direct its activities. In August, Mr. Shain appointed the committees described in the next article.

It is our mission to facilitate the use of information technology on this campus by:

* coordinating the development of long range goals
* establishing action plans for achieving those goals
* monitoring and evaluating changing technology, and,

More than Computing

Information Technology includes not only the traditional forms of computing and communications, but also such developing forms as video and satellite technology, electronic mail and conferencing, electronic printing and automated publishing, inter- and intra-campus networking, library automation, computer-assisted instruction, and the communication aspects of such functions as energy management and security control.

Inter- and intra-campus networking requires coordinating our investments in twisted-pair, coaxial cable, fibre-optic and microwave installations. These and other technologies supporting communications will be of significant interest to our office and the Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

Here are some of the functions we now perform:

* We process approvals of computing and telecommunications equipment and software acquisitions under authority delegated by the UW System and Wisconsin Department of Administration.
* We consult with University administrators and department heads in decisions that involve the application of information technology.
* We represent the University on matters related to information technology. (For example, by arranging participation in the Carnegie Consortium, described in a story on page 3.)

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* We assist in obtaining funds to support applications of information technology. This includes locating potential grant and gift sources. It has also meant negotiation of special discounts for the University, its faculty and staff.

* We take initiative in encouraging faculty and staff to make effective use of information technology in their work.

Call On Us

In support of our mission, Tad Pinkerton serves on UW System planning groups including the Committee on Information Processing Systems (CIPS) and the Task Force on Library Automation. He chairs the UW Madison Information Technology Advisory Committee, and is liaison to other committees shown on the next page.

Dave Brown processes most acquisition approvals. He researches budgets and trends as staff to the Information Technology committees. He also serves as a resource to the Cooperative Extension Computer and Communications Systems Committee.

We have been invited by some department chairpersons and deans to give second opinions on computing and communications aspects of research and instruction proposals. We can also give advice on RFQ and bid specifications to save time in purchasing.

Get us involved early in the planning process. We may be able to tell you about other people with similar goals and share long range directions in campus planning.

IT Committees Named

As part of the process that led to the establishment of our office, some modifications to computing committees have been made. A new Information Technology Advisory Committee has an overall role in assisting our office in the long range planning and acquisition approval processes. This committee replaces the Administrative Hardware/Software Review Committee and some functions of the Academic Computing Advisory Committee, which no longer exist.

Separate advisory committees for the Madison Academic Computing Center, Administrative Data Processing, and Telecommunications Office will set policy and review planning for those organizations.

In addition to these campus-at-large groups, college Information Technology committees have been set up in the Graduate School, Engineering, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Education. Similar groups have been recommended for Letters and Science, Business, Pharmacy and Medicine. These groups can be consulted by their Deans for advice on the effective application of information technology within the school or college. Schools or colleges without an IT Committee will be served by the Graduate School Committee.

Campus Committees Named

We are pleased that the following people have accepted Chancellor Shain's invitation to serve on campus-wide committees during the 1983-84 academic year.

Information Technology Advisory Committee

This is the primary faculty body advising the Chancellor on the development of long-range goals for the effective use of information technology in all aspects of University activity. Its functions in carrying out this mission includes such activities as:

* Working with the OIT Director to establish plans for achieving the long range goals.

* Advising the Chancellor and OIT Director on criteria and procedures for approval of hardware and software acquisition requests campuswide.

* Serving as the final reviewing body for very large acquisitions.

* Keeping abreast of major information technology developments nationally and on the campus.

Members At Large

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Acting Director, Library
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263-3075

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1161-E Educ. Sci.
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Manly Draper
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262-3065

ADP Advisory Committee

This committee serves as the primary body advising the Vice-Chancellor for Administration on policies and plans for Administrative Data Processing.

Its functions include providing assistance in planning, suggesting and responding to proposals for new policies and services, reviewing budgets and proposed changes in rates, reviewing major hardware and software acquisitions, and reviewing software development schedules and priorities.