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To: Multiple recipients of list AJCUCOMP <AJCUCOMP@GUVVM>
Subject: Preliminary report on 1995 Meeting/Mexico City

Greetings:

I am presenting this preliminary report about the 1995 AJCU Conference on Information Technology Management, which just took place at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City this past week.

In a few words -- it was a success (with one slight unfortunate happenstance)!

Twenty-six universities were in attendance, 12 from the United States and 14 from Latin America.

Attendees also included Fr. Theodoro Peters, SJ, President of AUSJAL (equivalent of AJCU in Latin America) as well as the rector of Universidade Catolica de Pernambuco-Brasil, and Fr. Felix Villareal, SJ, Sogang University, Seoul Korea.

Universidad Iberoamericana was a very gracious host, the facilities were very good -- more than very adequate, simultaneous translation services, the meeting rooms, access to Internet, technical setups, and the food was delicious (perhaps different to some). In short, we were made to feel very comfortable (pampered) at home.

The sessions went generally well (yes, we were behind at every turn). Although, Dorinda Giles (Xavier) was able to moderate her session within time limits (she just left out the last presenter -- Ron McCleary from Rockhurst).

There was considerable discussion on Internet and its services, problems about access and control of content.

Joel Cohen (Canisius College) gave a very interesting defense of his dissertation research on the use of e-mail, including electronic discussion lists, and faculty productivity at Jesuit universities and colleges in the United States. Joel expressed his appreciation to our group for supporting his research.

We were able to witness an astoundingly joyful and emotion-filled human event -- a reunion between two conference attendees: Benny Benschoter (Creighton) and Erhard Cholewa (Universidade Catolica de Pernambuco-Brasil) who apparently were separated at birth -- more on this unbelievable circumstance later! Who knew?

At this meeting, the universities from Latin America met in separate session to organize as a conference on information technology management within the AUSJAL similar to our conference within the AJCU. This new conference is the first of its type within AUSJAL (outside of the one dedicated to the university presidents). Manuel Burgos (Uruguay) will be the chair of the new AUSJAL conference and Angelo Chirico (Venezuela) will be the

conference secretary.

We reviewed and considered the statements from the 34th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus, which recently concluded in Rome, regarding the call for more collaboration between professionals and specialists among the different Jesuit education in support of the Ignatian vision of education, especially Article #10 from the statement on Jesuits and University Life.

In this light, several attendees accepted the challenge and undertook steps to follow through on this statement. For example, in addition to the universities of Latin America organizing their own conference, Universidad Iberoamericana made a commitment to help the Jesuit universities in Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua) obtaining Internet services in a more reliable manner perhaps through satellite feeds. On an informal level, the different AJCU and AUSJAL universities established contacts with one another with some commitments to follow through on different matters.

Fr. Peters spoke eloquently challenging the conference to match words with actions. He formally invited both the AJCU and AUSJAL to meet together at Pernambuco in the very near future.

A new electronic discussion list will be set up (AJUA-L) for use by the conference attendees and others to continue the work of collaboration began at this important meeting.

Jack Corliss (Loyola Chicago) made a presentation on the proposed AJCU-NET, a project presented at the January meeting of the AJCU Board of Directors (presidents of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities) calling for the development and installation of a simple ease--access interactive communications system between Jesuit universities and colleges, similar in some respect to the way America Online provides access to Internet services, but eventually leading to the development and installation of a dedicated network between the Jesuit institutions providing additional communications services, including video-conferencing. The AJCU-NET represents an important service to be provided by the AJCU office in Washington, DC, for the benefit of its members.

The AJCU CITM conference members will need to hold discussions on this three-phase project on the AJCUCOMP, consider the impact of this project on their institutions, especially with respect to infrastructure support, and as a group will want to offer support to the AJCU Washington office on this important project.

Jack also reported on the Jesuit Secondary Education Association (JSEA) efforts to work with CompuServe to connect the 47 Jesuit high schools in the United States, under Carl Meirose, SJ.

The slight unfortunate happenstance was that at the business meeting of the AJCU group, we were shy of a quorum by two. We proceeded to meet in the mode of the committee of the whole, made some recommendations for resolutions to be presented to all the AJCU CITM members for discussion, approval and action, and recessed the meeting to be reconvened very soon through e-mail