

REPORT OF SECRETARY/INFORMATION OFFICER

Given that the business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2004, from 9:00 am through 9:15 am, I thought that it would be prudent to try to cover as much as possible by this report.

Conference Attendees

As of today, 21 AJCU institutions will be represented at the AJCU-CITM meeting and 24 at the AJCU Library Directors' meeting ... projecting together total attendance of 90 persons ... making this probably the largest AJCU-CITM meeting yet.

Membership

All 28 AJCU colleges and universities are now represented on the AJCUCOMP listserv. The listserv subscription list includes ten AJCU-CITM alumni and nine colleagues from AUSJAL-CATI.

AJCU-CITM Treasury

Joan Allbery (Gonzaga), reports that all but three institutions responded to our annual appeal for membership dues – yielding an account balance of \$2,500. She would like to report that she has received the \$5,277 check which represents the transfer of the AJCU-CITM treasury from Loyola Chicago which would increase the account balance to \$7,777. Now, that's a cool balance! But as of today, the check is still in mail.

Regrets – there are a few; best wishes, there are many

Joan Allbery (Gonzaga), Jerry DeSanto (Scranton), Dorinda Giles (Xavier) and Charlie Leonhardt (Georgetown), Lynne Scarboro (Loyola Marymount) and Catherine Walker (Seattle) have sent their regrets for not being able to join us at our meeting due to work, board meetings and other fun things. They wish us well and hope that we have a productive meeting and a good time.

Jaime Alberto Reinoso, from Universidad Javeriana, Cali, Colombia, had tried to join us on behalf of our colleagues in AUSJAL-CATI. Unfortunately, he is not able to get an appointment at the US Embassy to get a visa until June. But he wishes us well and will continue to be the liaison with our group on behalf of AUSJAL-CATI.

Juan Lanzagorta Ibarra, from ITESO, and our host of our meeting last year in Guadalajara wrote yesterday to say that he misses everyone and sends his best to all. Yesterday was a special day for Juan at ITESO. He was the master of ceremonies for the laying of the first stone for the new Edificio de Tecnologías de la Información (yes, that translates into "IT Building") – a dream of Juan that will now come true after six years of advocacy and three university presidents.

Juan reported that he took his class out toward Tequila to visit a power plant so he brought the students over to the Tequila Herradura factory. This student outing brought back many memories to Juan.

Site of 2005 Meeting

We need to come to a consensus for the site of our annual meeting in 2005. Originally, we were planning to meet at the University of San Francisco. But Tracy Schroeder from USF asked to

take a pass for the meeting. Through David Lees, St. Joseph's University then offered to host the 2005 meeting.

I recommend that we accept the offer from St. Joseph's University and meet in 2005 in Philadelphia.

Site of 2006 Meeting

We need to come to a consensus for the site of our annual meeting in 2006. Le Moyne College through Bob Clapp has offered to host the 2006 meeting in conjunction with the AJCU Library Directors Conference.

I recommend that we accept the offer from Le Moyne College and meet in 2006 in Syracuse.

Elections of AJCU-CITM officers for 2004-2005

Currently the AJCU-CITM officers include Kathy Lang (Marquette), president, Tracy Schroeder (USF), vice president, Joan Allbery (Gonzaga), treasurer, and Jack Corliss (Loyola Chicago).

Nominations to fill these positions for 2004-2005 are in order.

For president we usually solicit the nomination of the CIO of the host institution for the next year and for vice president that of the CIO of the host institution for the following

There are several liaison and work groups that have been functioning during the past year which include:

- AJCU Benchmarking, led by Bob Clapp (Le Moyne)
- JesuitNET liaison, Jerry DeSanto (Scranton)
- AUSJAL liaison, Jack Corliss (Loyola University)
- AJCU-CITM consortium procurement, led by Mark Castner (Canisius)

Jerry DeSanto has asked to be excused from serving as the JesuitNET liaison. So we are asking for someone to step into his shoes and take over at the liaison to JesuitNET.

We will call for nominations and vote on them at the business meeting next Wednesday morning.

Issue: Participation in AJCU-CITM Activities

Last year, in Guadalajara, we talked about the participation in our group by persons who worked at AJCU schools but are employed by a corporation through an outsource arrangement. Two AJCU schools, Loyola Marymount University and Seattle University, have contracted with Collegis for the management and delivery of information technology services. One question that arose in our discussion was to what extent should these contract employees be permitted to participate in our conference and conference activities, including information access, e.g., benchmarking databases. Some of us expressed concerns about the shared responsibility of all members of our conference to use information only for the benefit of the institution

By the way, we should note that our bylaws do not preclude contract employees from participating in our conference – membership is open to persons who are involved directly in information technology management at AJCU schools.

Since the meeting, I have had discussions with Catherine Walker, VP for Administration/University Counsel, Seattle University, and Lynne Scarboro, VP for Administration, Loyola Marymount University. These persons are the contract administrators with Collegis at their respective institutions. Both have joined the AJCUCOMP list and have been following our discussions.

In our discussions, we are agreed that it was appropriate to welcome the contract management staff of Collegis, Inc, to permit them to participate in our conference solely for the benefit of the AJCU institution. We all work toward a shared Ignatian vision of education and we are here to support teaching, learning, discovery and public service at our institutions. As professionals, we should treat them as the professional colleagues that they are and to expect in return that they act accordingly. As the contract administrators for the Collegis partnership, Catherine and Lynne will continue to impress upon the contract management staff that if they decide to participate in our conference activities to do so as professionals – with the clear understanding that any information they may obtain from these activities will be used only for the institution and not to be shared with their corporation.

Catherine and Lynne both reported that their institutions have nondisclosure clauses in their contracts with Collegis. They also understand that there may be some situations where it would not be appropriate for Collegis employees to be involved, e.g., business meetings or presentations on AJCU benchmarking.

This makes sense. The AJCU institution should determine who should represent the institution in an AJCU conference. We are following an approach similar to that being used by EDUCAUSE with respect to the access of their databases. Bob Clapp has placed some very clear and appropriate statements to this regard on the AJCU Benchmarking web site (www.lemoyne.edu/ajcu).

Are there any action items to be considered in this regard? For one, I would recommend that we continue with work with this arrangement.

Issue: AJCU EDTECH Track Sessions

You will note that this is the second annual meeting in which we have set up a separate track for those working in educational technology at our institutions. At a meeting at the 2002 EDUCAUSE, hosted by Dick Vigilante, Executive Director, Jesuit Distance Education Network, AJCU, several of us were in attendance. We agreed that there was great benefit to be derived for those working with education technology to get together. These would include persons who are not part of central information technology organizations, e.g., faculty, media services, libraries, centers for teaching and learning, and the like.

At the meeting, Dick reported that the presidents of the AJCU colleges and universities were not anxious to have yet another AJCU conference set up (presently there are 30 of them). Therefore, we agreed to try out the EdTech track approach at our 2003 meeting in Guadalajara. This year, several from the AJCU EDTECH group asked for a similar track at the 2004 meeting. This will be an interesting meeting given that we are also meeting jointly with AJCU Library Directors conference.

Of course, much of this depends upon the institution hosting the annual meeting – it adds a level of complexity to the program and logistics planning. Dick Vigilante with some assistance from Mark Castner (Canisius) and David Lees (St Joseph's) did much to develop the program for this year, and Danny Smith (Marquette) has been able to work out the logistics to support an EdTech track in order.

Perhaps the situation is now calling for someone to step forward and provide leadership for the AJCU EDTECH group, albeit informal, if we want to continue this approach.

Are there any action items to be considered in this regard? For one, I am expecting a recommendation to be presented calling for the establishment of the AJCU EDTECH group as a separate AJCU conference.

Issue: AJCU Consortium Purchase Agreements

Well here is a project that could really consume time and attention. In this regard we have had some promise and some success. Pat Thibodeau (St Louis) secured a sales promotion from Symantec Corp for the licensure of their anti-virus and ghost software. Mark Castner has been working on the renewal of our consortium agreement with Adobe Systems, Inc. Mark will report that Adobe Systems, Inc is ready to renew the consortium agreement pending signature by Dick Vigilante next week during the business meeting. This consortium agreement is open to any AJCU college and university. Mark can give more detail about the agreement next week.

How these consortium procurement agreements work depend upon the vendor. With Adobe Systems, Inc. as a consortium we are required to purchase a minimal amount of licenses within a specific time period. With Symantec Corp, their initial proposals for consortium pricing had required three-year pre-payment commitments.

Working with publishers of course management systems has been a challenge. Dick Vigilante got the ball rolling after some discussion with representatives from AJCU CITM and AJCU EDTECH groups, and contacted three vendors to solicit preliminary pricing proposals from Blackboard, CyberLearning Labs (Angel) and WebCT, for a centralized course management system to be shared by group of interested AJCU schools. Some of us met with vendor representatives at the 2003 EDUCAUSE in October 2003.

The meeting with Blackboard was disappointing given that twenty AJCU institutions are Blackboard customers. For one thing, up to the meeting, Blackboard had not responded with a proposal. At the meeting, it became quickly apparent to us that Blackboard was not ready to present a proposal of any nature. Several of us asked Blackboard representatives very directly what did Blackboard have to offer to their AJCU customers. After the meeting, Joel Cohen (Canisius) took the lead to facilitate contact with Blackboard.

We formed a small work group (Mark Castner, Joel Cohen, Jack Corliss and Dick Vigilante) and then received the first of several proposals. This proposal looked more like a sales promotion than a consortium agreement.

After a few redrafts, we asked Blackboard to prepare the proposal by treating the 28 AJCU schools as one entity, with a total enrollment FTE of about 165,000. While Blackboard did not come back with this option, they did submit a proposal providing modest discounts for certain products and services, and a multi-year software purchase agreements which required a three-year commitment (one agreement requires payment of two years up front). We have placed this contract on the AJCU Benchmarking web site (www.lemoyne.edu/ajcu) along with a brief report summarizing the pricing proposals and a spreadsheet detailing cost distributions.

But there is one small silver lining . . .

There is no minimal level of procurement with the Blackboard proposal. But AJCU institutions that decide to go with the proposal risk the possibility that Blackboard may elect not to renew the consortium agreement after the two-year term expires if not enough AJCU institutions participate in the agreement.

However there may be still another silver lining . . .

At the same time that we have been working on our consortium purchase agreement projects, the presidents of the eleven AJCU Heartland/Delta schools (Creighton, Detroit Mercy, John Carroll, Loyola Chicago, Loyola New Orleans, Marquette, Regis, Rockhurst, St Louis, Spring Hill and Xavier) put together a collaboration project group to look into the issue of consortium purchase agreements. This group is led by Joseph Adorjan, chairperson of board of trustees at St. Louis.

Mr. Adorjan invited the AJCU-CITM to send someone to attend the first meeting. Ellen Watson (St Louis) attended the meeting on our behalf in March 2004. In addition, Art Scheuber (Marquette), VP for Administration (former CIO at Marquette) has been participating in the project group on behalf of Marquette.

One option that this project group is considering is to contract with a company that is in the business of negotiating consortium purchase agreements (obviously for a fee, which reportedly they cannot pass along to their clients). Ellen and Art will report on the activities of this group next Tuesday in the afternoon.

Are there any action items to be considered in this regard? I suggest that they are a few which include:

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- (1) Thank Pat for her work on the Symantec agreement.
 - (2) Accept the renewal of the Symantec consortium purchase agreement for another two-year term, ask Dick Vigilante to sign the agreement on behalf of the AJCU, get the word out to the AJCU members, and acknowledge and thank Mark for his work on this.
 - (3) Decide whether to continue with the Blackboard proposal.
 - (4) Acknowledge and thank the small work group for their efforts dealing with Blackboard
 - (5) Decide whether to ask Dick Vigilante to solicit similar proposal from other vendors, e.g., WebCT and CyberLearningLabs, Inc.
 - (6) Monitor the effort and progress of the AJCU Heartland/Delta project

Issue: Anything else?

If you have an issue that should be presented in the AJCU-CITM business meeting then please let me know as soon as possible. You can send me an e-mail at jcorlis@luc.edu

Respectfully submitted

Jack Corliss