


AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA
College of Business and Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Computer Advisory Committee
Ara Arabyan
Ruben Karapetian
David Livingston
Igor Mktumian
Tigran Nazarian
Virgil Strohmeier

FROM: Allen G. Greenwood, Chair 

DATE: July 9, 1993

SUBJECT: Minutes of the 7/6/93 meeting of the AUA Computer Advisory Committee

The third meeting of the AUA Computer Advisory Committee (CAC) was held Tuesday, July 6, 1993, from 3 until 4:30 p.m. All members were in attendance.

The minutes of the June 29, 1993 meeting were approved.

It was requested at the last meeting that some information be provided to the students on the basics of Windows. Allen provided a book on getting started with Windows. Virgil will incorporate part of the material into the ESL program; Tigran will prepare part of the material for display in the computer labs; and, the book will be placed in the library.

David Livingston will be invited to join the committee beginning with the next meeting. David is a visiting research associate with the CBRD through the I.E.S.C. (International Executive Service Corps) program. He is here as a consultant to provide advise on computing issues. All members felt his considerable experience with and knowledge of information systems will be a valuable addition to the committee.

The committee has decided, as discussed in the last meeting, to recommend that some notebook computers be purchased for use by visiting faculty. The advantages are: they can easily be shared among faculty; they can be taken home if needed; they are less dependent on electricity; and, they will not shut down with the frequent short-term power interruptions. The disadvantages are they would not be as easy to repair here (although they would be easy to transport to the US or Europe for repair) and they would be easier to steal. The committee felt the advantages clearly outweighed the disadvantages.

The question was raised does the AUA want to obtain a site license for Aragast's Armenian/English dictionary?

All computer related materials and issues should go through the Computer Department, that is Igor and not Arthur. This includes new software, diskettes, installation diskettes, etc. Igor has just hired two technicians to help with the operation of the Computing Department.

The issue of UPSs was raised. Plans for network include a minimum of one UPS for each server. Any workstation would also require a UPS. Virgil indicated Michael Keshishian is using a car battery as a UPS for his Macintosh -- so far, it seems to be working well. There also are UPSs available locally; they can also be constructed to our specifications. Igor will investigate the cost and capabilities. If the local UPSs seem of interest, this committee urges the university to purchase one or two on a trial basis. We should consider purchasing a single PC UPS and one that will support three to four PCs (for use in the labs or research centers).

The status of the LAN is still uncertain. According to Igor, Vartkes Barsam is obtaining three bids for the material. In terms of timing, the only estimate of when it should be completed is "soon." It seems to be prudent to delay any purchases until we have had a chance to discuss the LAN issue with David Livingston.

Computerland in Yerevan is tied to the Glendale, CA store. The AUA should investigate using them as source of relatively quick supplies. Even if the university chooses not to use them, faculty would be interested in knowing what services they can provide in terms of obtaining replacement parts or supplies.

There was a discussion of what to do with the VAX and microVAX that are in the lab. At this time there does not appear to be any need for the VAX; the microVAX might be used as UNIX platform, but, in terms of the current academic programs, there may be little need for such a machine.

Each member of the committee is to discuss the needs of their college/department so that the committee can formulate a plan on how new computer hardware and software funds should be spent. It was decided the needs should be for the next academic year, starting in March 1994.

The next meeting will be Tuesday July 13 from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. in room 24. Please note that we will meet one hour earlier than usual. Also note I have added David Livingston as a member of our committee.

cc: Armen Der-Kiureghian
George Gibson