University of Texas at Tyler

Scholar Works at UT Tyler

Administrative Council Minutes   James H. Stewart, Jr. Papers

10-19-1973

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes, October 19th, 1973

University of Texas at Tyler

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/stewart_council

3:00 p.m., October 19, 1973

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Vice President John Sawyer announced that the purpose of the meeting was to provide information and to receive input concerning computer services for Tyler State College.

II. COMPUTER AVAILABILITIES

John Sawyer, vice president for fiscal affairs, stated that Tyler State College has been in contact with the Computer Center at Texas A&M University concerning the possibilities of TSC using the A&M computer facilities. He added that if an agreement is reached, a medium speed remote terminal would be set up on the TSC campus. It would be connected with the major unit at the Texas A&M Computer Center.

Mr. Sawyer further stated that A&M computer has hardware that is very attractive for the TSC operation. In fact, A&M is considered to have the largest hardware setup in the southwest that is available to colleges and universities.

In the discussion, Mr. Sawyer mentioned that the advantages of the on-campus terminal are:

1) Large computer centers offer a wider variety of services than are possible on smaller systems.

2) A bigger selection of programming languages and software packages are available.

3) Larger computing centers can also support larger staffs which implies that highly specialized support can be provided to users with unique requirements.

4) Economies of scale can be achieved in equipment (hardware) costs at larger centers.

5) Perhaps even more significant in the case of Tyler State College is that there are also economies of scale in program (software) costs.

6) Finally, a most significant advantage of remote computing for a growing institution like TSC, is that the user pays only for those services used.

He estimated that the total cost of the on-campus remote terminal direct telephone line, rental charges, and the salary of a computer director would be approximately $60,000-$70,000 per annum.

Dr. Robert Marsh, dean of admissions and records, said that three questions he was very concerned about are these:

1) How fast of a "turn-around" would there be?

2) Would the Texas A&M University equipment be readily available?

3) Does the system have an optical scan?

Dr. Marsh mentioned that these three areas would be very critical during the periods of registration each semester. Mr. Sawyer stated that answers to these questions would be obtained.

Dr. George Joyce, dean of the school of business, said that at the present time he seriously questioned this outlay for instructional purposes.

Mr. Jim Mayfield, director of library services, commented that his area of responsibility had an immediate need for computer services.

Mr. Sawyer said that administrative application would include property inventory, accounting and budget control, as well as other uses.

Dr. Frank Smyrl, chairman of the department of social sciences and professor of history, stated that he was in favor of the A&M proposal, based on the available information.

Dr. Robert Cox, dean of the school of education and psychology, asked how much space would be needed to accommodate the local terminal. Mr. Sawyer said that it would take an area about one-half the size of the TSC conference room.

Mr. Sawyer stated that all of the information would be assimilated and given to a committee and if the board approved the proposal, it is possible that the system could be implemented by December 1, 1973.

IV.   ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Robert L. Cox
A. Wayne Criswell
Dr. George Joyce
Dr. O. Robert Marsh
James L. Mayfield
John R. Pierce
James S. Powell
John R. Sawyer
Dr. Frank H. Smyrl

ABSENT (Due to previous
        commitments)
Dr. Noel H. McCoy
Dr. Gerald L. Morris
Dr. James H. Stewart, Jr.
Dr. Billy L. Turney