

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Susan Coppersmith, Department Chair at 12:15 PM with 26 voting members present.

### 1. Announcements

**NSF MRI - Internal Competition**—UW can submit 3 total. Internal intent to propose is due Oct. 24. Please let Aimee Lefkow know by October 23 if you intend to submit. Internal proposals are due Oct. 31. <http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/research/resadmin/nsfmri.html> If you are approved, the NSF proposal deadline is 1/24/08.

**Reminder**—The strategic planning committee, in cooperation with the space committee, seeks written input for developing a plan on future infrastructure improvements to support the research mission of the department. The ultimate goal is to develop a strategic plan for research space and other infrastructure for the department that is logically defensible and forward looking. Specifically, they would like each of the research groups that use space to provide information to them. Please get this to Cary Forest by the end of next week.

### 2. Computer Committee Report—Wesley Smith

**1109 Chamberlin (Server Room)**—A computer committee meeting is planned for Monday, October 8. The room is large enough for 24 racks. The room will be near capacity. If you have any server needs, please let the computer committee (Smith, chair) know. If there is a need, there is some possibility of working with the Math department to combine efforts and find a larger space.

**3119 Chamberlin (Grad Student Room)**—Currently, this room has 50+ computers, a copy machine, and a printer for graduate student use. The room is also set up—in theory—to hold a class of at least 50 students all with access to a computer. This is a very large room, and appears to be underutilized. The Computer Committee proposes to turn 3119 over to the Department Space Committee (Saffman, chair) for allocation to some other function (e.g., conference room). They also propose that the Space Committee find a smaller room for the grad student room—large enough for 5 computers, a printer, and a copy machine. The remaining computers would then be reallocated to grad student offices. The instructional capacity of the room can be met by using other space, either by having students use laptops and wireless, or, if a dedicated room of desktops is needed, in engineering. It was moved to table this discussion, turn the issue over to the Instructional Committee (Joynt, chair). This motion was passed by unanimous consent.

**Computer Setup Instructions**—Instructions for setting up computers on the physics network will now be available online. Use <http://www.physics.wisc.computing>. If you need a static IP address, please consult with Steve Rader ([help@physics.wisc.edu](mailto:help@physics.wisc.edu)).

**Course Webpages**—The Computer Committee is recommending that ALL course webpages move to a PHYSICS SUPPORTED SERVER. It is proposed that the Instructional Committee (Joynt, chair) make recommendations on style and format of the pages.

**Bill Grogan**—Bill Grogan will be on extended medical leave for more than two weeks in November. When he is away, Steve Keys will be filling in. [Help@physics.wisc.edu](mailto:Help@physics.wisc.edu) is also available.

**Mail**—Mail problem last week could have been handled better. The cause, a false “disk full” error caused a failure. The mail server will be replaced on Sunday. A mail outage will start at 6pm and is estimated to last until midnight. New spam software will also be installed. Spam filter will quarantine messages. At 3 pm daily, users will receive an email listing all quarantined messages. SquirrelMail will be the new webmail software. It has a much friendlier user interface.

**Computing WebPages**—updated information is available on the department’s computing pages. Checkout <http://www.physics.wisc.edu/computing>.

#### Computing Support—

- **Nagios**—network and system status monitoring software will be available from a link on the department’s computing webpage (<http://www.physics.wisc.edu/computing>). It is updated every 90 seconds.
- **On-Call**—someone from the computer staff will be on-call 24-7. The staff member that is on-call will carry a pager (please use this for true emergencies only). Nagios software also has some warning capabilities, and will page the person on-call if it detects a problem.
- **Support**—currently, department computer support is available for AFT, login, printing, directory/file problems and issues. Support does not cover application support for every desktop application. It was proposed that the computer committee come up with a Support/Not Supported policy. It will be the topic at one of the upcoming computer committee meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.