Agenda, April 19, 2002  
CCGB Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes of 4/12/02 Meeting  
2. Undergraduate Announcements  
3. Report from FABIT on internet connection rates for students (Dean Jennifer Gerner, Human Ecology)  
4. Directors/chairs suggestions for better communication with CCGB (Terry Jordan)

CCGB Minutes  
April 12, 2002

Members:  J. Bartsch, J. Bisogni, D. Dalthorp, E. Giannelis, F. Gouldin, T. Healey, T. Jordan, R. Kay,  
B. Kusse, S. Wicker


Ex-Officio:  K. Athreya, D. Cox, B. East, T. Thompson, D. Worley

Other:  P. McClure, C. Pakkala

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of April 12, 2002, were approved with a one-word revision.

Undergraduate Announcements: T. Jordan (Assoc. Dean) stated that the advising algorithm final product would be sent to faculty on 4/12/02 and requested that faculty send K.M. Smith a list of the designated freshmen advisors and indicate when their Engineering 150 classes will be held.

B. East (Admissions) expressed her appreciation for the faculty who volunteered for the Cornell Days faculty panel. She also reminded the CCGB meeting attendees to be helpful and courteous to the parents and prospective students who are visiting during Cornell Days.

S. Wicker (ECE) reported that the ECE has granted approval for ECE students to be allowed to take the Information Science Minor.

Discussion of Internet Fees with Vice President Polley McClure: P. McClure (Vice President for Info. Technologies) announced that she is aware of the concern regarding next year’s resident internet fee increase. The current cost is $205/year. A subsidy from the University Budget Committee covers the remainder of the actual cost of the service ($447). The original plan that was proposed by Info. Technologies called for a gradual decrease in the subsidy over a few years, but the University Budget Committee decided that it could not afford to continue to subsidize this service beyond the current academic year. Although she has heard the concerns raised by the Student Assembly and other students, she does not foresee a solution to the $450 that students will need to pay for internet service for the 2002-2003 academic year. She has requested that the fee be included in the financial aid packages for AY 2003-2004. She has also discussed with S. Murphy (VP Student and Acad. Svcs.) the feasibility of building into the room charges a portion of the fee (an amount appropriate to basic academic uses of the service) and assessing a usage-based fee for the remainder of the service. T. Healey (T&AM) asked if roommates could share a hub to reduce expenses. P. McClure replied that each student using the internet would need a subscription, so sharing a hub wouldn’t save any money. T. Healey asked if students could subscribe to Roadrunner as an alternative. P. McClure responded that Cornell isn’t set up to physically support Roadrunner, and using that service wouldn’t reduce CIT’s expenses for maintaining pathways, staff support, etc. B. East suggested that students utilize the EZ Remote service (using phone lines). S. Wicker (ECE) requested a breakdown of costs necessary to maintain the Resnet service. P. McClure said that the network as a whole costs $8 million per year, of which $2.5 million is Resnet specific (including maintenance, staff & internet use). Cornell pays $1 million alone just for internet usage. The major users (at 60%) of the internet are the students, and during the summer internet traffic decreases to 15% of its peak use. D. Cox (Assist. Dean) asked if any subsidy consideration for minority students and students with especially limited financial resources had been
discussed. P. McClure expressed her certainty that it had been discussed by the Executive Budget Group (including Provost Martin, the Administrative VP, S. Murphy, the VP for Finance and Budget and other senior administrators), but that special considerations had not been granted. T. Healey asked how peer institutions handle this situation. P. McClure replied that most don’t function like Cornell, which has an entrepreneurial attitude and assigns the cost to the cost causers. So something that is considered overhead and extracted accordingly at other institutions, is treated as a billable service at Cornell. F. Gouldin (M&AE) stated that when the CCGB members heard about the new Resnet rates, they were most concerned about the impact the new rate would have on students who use the internet for academic purposes (classes, labs, research). P. McClure responded that the potential negative impacts were identified, but the administration felt that the money was needed to recoup their costs. She said that students could access the internet in computer labs, in libraries and in other areas on campus. She suggested that the faculty articulate their concerns to the Executive Budget Group and recommend that the subsidy be extended for another year. T. Jordan (Assoc. Dean) asked if an attempt had been made to discover what percentage of students would opt not to get the service due to the rate increase. P. McClure replied that, although a decrease in internet subscribers is a concern, they have no way of estimating that percentage. B. Kusse (A&EP) expressed his view that students are creative and will discover alternate ways of obtaining access to the internet. T. Healey suggested that a portion of the internet charge be added to the room rate and then a usage fee be utilized. S. Wicker added that he estimated ½ million alone could be saved by constraining internet usage. P. McClure responded that usage is a fixed cost because Cornell doesn’t pay according to traffic volume. D. Cox stated that, since financial aid is a big factor in whether students come to Cornell, this is a big marketing issue for the Admissions Office. The impact of the costs to attend Cornell is cumulative, and some families may feel that the financial burden is too great to bear. She also suggested that academic units be included when the university makes decisions that directly impact them. P. McClure expressed her agreement that academic units be included in decision-making, and said that there are faculty representatives from each college on the Faculty Advisory Board of Information Technology (FABIT), which reviews major policies. S. Wicker said that he would get in touch with the FABIT representative(s) and invite the Provost to come to a future CCGB meeting. F. Gouldin suggested that a FABIT representative be invited to come prior to the Provost being invited.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.