

**- AUSTRALIAN ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH NETWORK ADVISORY BOARD**

The third meeting of the Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet) Advisory Board was held on Monday 26 November 1990 at the Australian National University, commencing at 10.45 am.

**MINUTES**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

Professor Ken McKinnon (Chair);  
 Mr Alan Coulter;  
 Dr J G Iain Wallace;  
 Professor Peter Poole;  
 Mr Greg Batchelor;  
 Dr Robin Erskine;  
 Professor Arthur Appleton;  
 Dr John O'Callaghan

**Secretariat**

Mr John Mullarvey  
 Mr Geoff Huston  
 Mr Ian McDonald

**Apologies**

Professor Mary O'Kane

**2. MINUTES**

... The minutes of the second meeting of the Board held on 13 September 1990 were confirmed subject to a number of minor modifications.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (NOT RAISED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA)**

Members were advised that it had not been possible to undertake work on the proposed discussion paper on potential goals and objectives for AARNet for the next three to five years. The Board agreed that the item be included on the agenda for the next meeting at which time a report would be made.

**3.1 Staffing**

Members were advised that the position of General Manager had not been filled and that subject to consideration of the job description by the Chairman

(Professor Wilson) and Deputy Chairman (Professor McKinnon) of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC), the position would be advertised shortly. The AVCC had previously determined that following the selection of the successful person by the committee established by the Board the appointment would be approved by the President and Deputy President of the AVCC.

### 3.2 AARNet Usage Statistics

#### 3.2.1 Statistics for Period to Week Ending 11 November 1990

... Members considered a report which set out a summary of total AARNet usage for the period 1 July 1990 to 11 November 1990 and detailed usage for the week ending 11 November 1990. The Board was advised that the data indicated reasonable usage, although, in the case of the South Australian hub, the data highlighted computer problems experienced at the University of Adelaide where abnormal activity subsequently flowed on to other hub sites.

The Board agreed that there was a need for individual site managers to ensure such disturbances did not occur.

*The Board resolved to note the reports.*

#### 3.2.2 AARNet Case Studies

The Board considered the document setting out a number of case studies on uses to which the network had been put given the inability of the network itself to provide such data. Members agreed that the variety of cases sited provided an overview of the range of ways in which the network was being used to provide researchers with connectivity and that the network should be used to inform the wider community of the value of AARNet. The Board agreed that subject to clearance of the case studies by the providers of the information, the studies be circulated to all sites as part of the educational program. In addition, an abridged version should be provided to assist in the release of the information through site/campus publications.

*The Board resolved that:*

- (i) *the AARNet Technical Manager check with particular providers of the case studies and obtain any necessary clearance for publication;*
- (ii) *the proposed set of case studies and summary sheet be returned to the next meeting of the Board for clearance prior to circulation to sites/campuses; and*
- (iii) *the AARNet Technical Manager request each campus to provide information on their educational and dissemination programs in respect of AARNet activities and report to the next meeting.*

### 3.3 Network Shop 90

Dr Erskine reported on the activities and range of international speakers at the Sixth Australian Networkshop on Academic and Research Networking at the Australian National University during the period 26/28 November 1990.

*Not yet.*

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Members agreed on the importance of maintaining links with other Pacific countries and the USA.

*The Board resolved to note the report.*

### **3.4 Membership**

#### **3.4.1 Agreements with AVCC Member Institutions**

Members considered a document which set out an arrangement for the provision of AARNet services to AARNet members. The Board was advised of the original intention for a contractual arrangement between AVCC and institutions for the provision of such services but with the AVCC now covering all higher education institutions from 1 January 1991, a less formal arrangement was considered more appropriate.

The discussion centred on the interpretation of the material that was acceptable for transmission on the network and the responsibility for ensuring that this occurred. Members agreed that the core traffic on the network should be that material which was consistent with the academic and research enterprise of AARNet members. While it was difficult to define in absolute terms exactly what constituted the material that could be transmitted, it was agreed that it was the responsibility of each member institution to ensure that any traffic was relevant to the its academic enterprise.

*The Board resolved that:*

- (i) *it recommend to the AVCC that the document be forwarded to all AARNet members with each member being asked to agree to the provisions under which AARNet services would be provided;*
- (ii) *the draft document be used as the basis of further discussion between the Secretariat and CSIRO to finalise a formal agreement on the provision of AARNet services to CSIRO; and*
- (iii) *the draft document be used as the basis for formal agreement with other institutions on the provision of AARNet services.*

#### **3.4.2 Agreements with Regional Hub Sites**

The Board considered a similar document as the basis for formal agreement with regional hubs on the provision of AARNet services. Members agreed that the agreement should detail what services were expected to be provided by hub sites during both normal staffed operating hours and non-staffed operations. The Board agreed that the form of words include reference to "the expectation that the hub site would be staffed during normal working hours and have at least a call out system in place outside of staffed operating hours."

*The Board resolved that subject to the amendment noted above, it recommend to the AVCC that, the document be forwarded to all hub member sites for their agreement.*



### 3.4.3 Connections to AARNet

The Board considered the draft paper detailing arrangements for affiliate members and incorporating application forms for either electronic mail service or network connection service of the affiliate members. It was intended that the draft document be provided to each applicant.

The Board discussed the concern with the possibility of affiliate members purchasing block subscriptions and reselling to other users and the extent to which government agencies had already sought access to AARNet services through the ANU. Members agreed that in view of the emerging demand from this source, consideration needed to be given to marketing the services available on AARNet and to the types of future membership arrangements.

*The Board resolved to recommend to the AVCC that the draft document be used as the application form and agreement for affiliate members and applicants for the provision of electronic mail services.*

### 3.4.4 Australian Unix Users Group (AUUG)

The Board resolved to:

- (i) **recommend** to the AVCC that the Australian Unix Users Group (AUUG) be approved to be a Mail Affiliate Member of AARNet on behalf of its membership and that for 1991 this organisation be charged \$4,000 for membership;
- (ii) **recommend** to the AVCC the delegation of authority to approve applications for Affiliate Membership of AARNet be passed to the Executive Director and/or Deputy Secretary of the Secretariat of the AVCC in those cases of standard applications without variations; and
- (iii) **recommend** to the AVCC that the Board will consider all applications for Affiliate membership of AARNet which are not standard applications and make appropriate recommendations to the AVCC in each case.

## 4. AARNet BACKBONE UPGRADE

The Board considered the proposal to upgrade the AARNet backbone from 48Kbps DDS service to 64 Kbps ISDN. Members were advised of the cost reduction associated with the implementation of the proposed strategy and in view of the expected growth in traffic across the network.

*The Board resolved to:*

- (i) *approve the purchase of ISDN services as the basis of the backbone trunk network upgrade as detailed; and*
- (ii) *request the Secretariat to prepare a paper for the consideration of the Board at its next meeting on the need to upgrade the tail links to ISDN and the timing for such upgrades.*



## 5. PROJECT FUNDING

Dr Erskine reported on behalf of the group set up to review the proposals received in response to the request for expressions of interest in and funding from the 1990 AARNet budget allocation of \$134,000 for national projects of importance to AARNet.

The report indicated that, on the basis of the criteria adopted for the selection process, five projects were considered worthy of support. The list of projects and relevant details are attached to these minutes.

*The Board considered the recommendations of the group and resolved to:*

- (i) *National Directory Service - support the expenditure of \$3,000 to set up an interest group workshop (with possible representation from the universities of Queensland, Sydney and Monash together with CSIRO) to define the project, its intended outcome, working program, objectives, timing and associated costs to complete the project. The report would be returned to the Board for consideration;*
- (ii) *Promotional Literature - support the expenditure of up to \$10,000 for the project subject to negotiation between the preferred proposers (possibly Queensland University of Technology and La Trobe University) and the Secretariat regarding the cost of the project; and*
- (iii) *supports the remaining projects as selected together with proposed levels of expenditure.*

CSIRO representatives expressed concern that they were not invited to submit a proposal for funding from the AARNet allocation and requested the Board include them in future and that CSIRO be invited to bid for any unexpended funds remaining in 1990 once the current proposals had been considered.

The Board agreed that \$150,000 be set aside in 1991 for support of educational promotion and development projects with an emphasis on development proposals which would further the network and that two rounds of offers should be made for projects for 1991. The first would seek expressions of interest from all parties, including CSIRO, early in 1991 with a possible return date of end January 1991. The second would invite proposals to be submitted in time for consideration at the June meeting.

Members agreed that all projects supported would need to be able to produce deliverables.

## 6. AARNet BUDGET - 1990/91

The Board considered the revised expenditure statement for 1990 and the proposed budget for 1991 which resulted in a similar level of expenditure to that of 1990. Given the two year commitment for funding by the ARC (i.e. 1990 and 1991) members discussed the possibility of maintaining the real level of contributions, inflated by cost of living adjustments, to build up a small reserve of funds.

*The Board resolved to recommend to the AVCC that the budget strategy maintain the value of contributions for 1991 at the same real level as for 1990 and that a running surplus be maintained against future contingencies.*

*1-3 million  
AVCC only  
effort with  
is required*

## 7. AARNet ACCESS TO AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

The Board considered a paper prepared by the AARNet operations staff concerning the provision of access to ABS data over AARNet and resolved to:

- West Gough*  
*DEET.*  
*N BEE*
- (i) *agree to formally approach the Australian Statistician regarding the delivery of ABS statistical data to AARNet members over AARNet under the affiliate membership arrangements; and*
  - (ii) *request AARNet operations staff to continue to liaise with ABS technical staff to ensure the development of future ABS services does not preclude their integration into AARNet, should the ABS agree to such action.*

*The Board also requested that AARNet operations staff, in conjunction with CSIRO staff, prepare a paper on the availability of and means of access to other databases/data services.*

## 8. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

### 8.1 Intercontinental Engineering and Planning Group

Members considered the paper prepared by the Technical Manager following his attendance at the inaugural meeting of the Intercontinental Engineering and Planning Group (IEPG) in October 1990.

*The Board resolved to:*

- (i) *agree to the continued AARNet attendance at IEPG meetings with the next meeting to be held in May 1991; and*
  - (ii) *consider the issue of appropriate mechanisms to support Australian network engineers' and Australian researchers' attendance at IEPG and/or RARE technical development and engineering workshops at the next meeting.*
- Alan*  
*Burns*

### 8.2 Co-ordinating Committee for Intercontinental Research Networking

Members considered the report of the AARNet Technical Manager on his attendance at the meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee for Intercontinental Research Networking (CCIRN) which met in October 1990 and the recommendations arising from the report.

*The Board resolved:*

- (i) *to recommend that Dr Erskine represent AARNet at the May 1991 meeting of the CCIRN and thereby become a Pacific member of the CCIRN;*
- (ii) *to recommend to the AVCC that it invite the US co-chair of the CCIRN to meet with the AVCC, the AARNet Advisory Board and other relevant organisations over a 2 or 3 day period early in 1991 in Canberra;*



(iii) that AARNet encourage the CCIRN to meet in Australia in November 1991 and recommend to the AVCC that it extend a formal invitation to the two co-chairs of the CCIRN to this effect; and

*VIA CHAIRMAN  
DIRECT CONVERSATION  
IMPROVED RESEARCH*

(iv) to recommend to the AVCC that it contact the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the chair of the Japan Council of Research Networks with a view to establishing a PAC-CCIRN such that Pacific issues can be effectively voiced within the CCIRN. To this end, to recommend to the AVCC that the chair of the AVCC request that this matter be included on the agenda of the NZVC meeting in November 1991, which he and the Executive Director of the AVCC will be attending, and that a representative of AARNet also attend to undertake more detailed discussions with New Zealand representatives.

## 9. THE STRUCTURES OF MANAGEMENT

Members considered a paper which had been developed to address the various management issues which will surface as AARNet is developed further.

*The Board resolved to defer consideration of the matter until the AARNet General Manager was appointed.*

## 10. CONNECTION OF AVCC MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

... The Board considered a paper prepared by the Secretariat in relation to the connection of the remaining AVCC members to AARNet. It was noted that due to pending institutional mergers, amalgamations etc. a number of new AVCC members were no connected to AARNet. A number of requests had been received for these institutions to join AARNet.

*The Board resolved to recommend to the AVCC the physical connection of all AVCC members to AARNet while they remain members of the AVCC and that the budget include provisions for such connection.*

## 11. AARNet REPORT - THIRD QUARTER 1990 (FOR INFORMATION)

The Third Quarter AARNet report was tabled.

*The Board resolved to note the report.*

## 12. INTERNATIONAL AND RESEARCH NETWORKS - A BRIEF SUMMARY

A paper providing a brief summary of international and research networks was tabled. It was agreed that considerable benefits could be gained from users by placing the information on AARNet.

*The Board resolved to note the report and agree to its release on AARNet.*

## 13. RESOURCE GUIDE

## 14. OTHER BUSINESS

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

*The Board resolved that the next meeting be held on 22 February 1991 (subject to availability of the incoming Chair of the Board in 1991). It was also resolved that the Board meet as follows during 1991:*

*31 May 1991  
23 August 1991  
25 November 1991*

15 February, 1991

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