

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR AR 10

Title: Creating a New S.M.F. Lab

Purpose: To prove a new computer lab is needed

Sponsor(s): Representative Morse

Committee Assigned: Student Services

Committee Recommendation: Resolution affirmed

Reason(s) for Decision: The committee feels that the Student Government should support the use of ITAC funds for the creation of a new SMF because of documented student needs for increased facilities & multiple lab locations. Moreover, the SG's support of this Resolution is far superior to the ITAC's alternative of the status quo.

Additional Comments: _____

passed Oct. 24, 95

A.R. 10 Construction of a New Student Microcomputer Facility

WHEREAS: The current computer facilities provided to the students of the University of Texas at Austin are inadequate to meet the increasing demand for computer services.

WHEREAS: The Student Microcomputer Facility supplies the majority of students on this campus with the computer services they need.

WHEREAS: The demand for computer services is on the increase as evidenced by the average time spent waiting for a computer. (see Figure 1)

WHEREAS: In the Spring of 1995 on an average day 25% of the people waiting for computers waited 41-60 minutes, and 23% waited over 1 hour.

WHEREAS: On an average day in the Spring of 1995 the lab was not above 100% capacity only from 4AM-9AM.

WHEREAS: The average wait time statistic itself underestimates the actual time people are actually waiting for a computer. (see Figure 2)

WHEREAS: In the Spring/Summer 1995 issue of The MicroGram, the Computation Center newsletter for UT, it was revealed that, "So far this year (Jan-Jun), 150,669 users signed a computerized waiting list to get on a station. This number is larger than the figure for all of 1994."

WHEREAS: The alternative of opening all computer labs on campus is: inadequate for the massive demand, detrimental to the vision plans the various colleges have for using their computer labs for class and group oriented work, and hurtful to the students who require specialized computers.

WHEREAS: The report, A New Vision of the University of Texas Academic Information Environment, 1995-2001, Toward the Virtual University, May 22, 1995, said "In our opinion, improving and integrating the University's array of information technology offers one of the best ways of maintaining this large University as the human, responsive and nurturing place it is and should continue to be."

WHEREAS: Last year the ITAC committee set aside \$600,000 specifically for the construction of a new SMF lab.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Student Government shall support the use the of the unallocated money of the Information Technology fee to construct another large computer lab, modeled after the SMF lab, at no extra cost to the students.

Sponsored by: Representative Morse

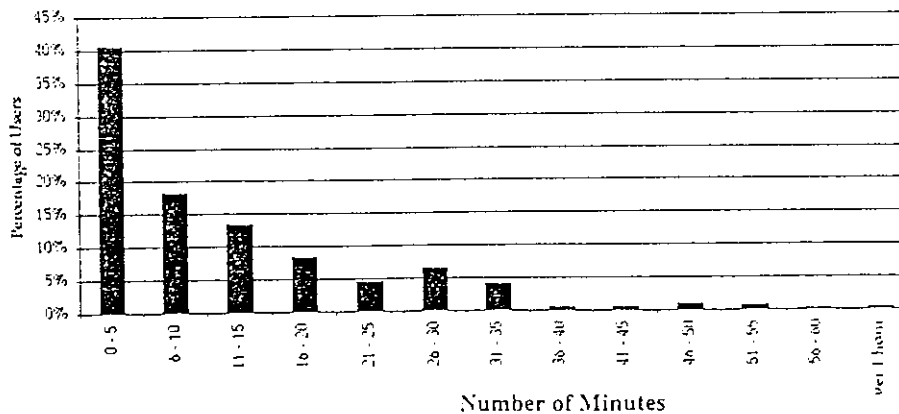
A.R.10

Figure One
Increasing Wait Times in SMF

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Avg. Wait (minutes)</u>	
SPRING 1994	January	2.45	AVG = 9.20
	February	14.22	
	March	10.22	
	April	8.34	
	May	10.78	
FALL 1994	September	7.01	AVG = 15.90
	October	9.07	
	November	15.93	
	December	31.57	
SPRING 1995	January	4.51	AVG = 19.66
	February	11.66	
	March	16.28	
	April	28.23	
	May	37.62	

September of this year is already at an average wait of 10.87 minutes.

Figure two
Average wait time can be an underestimation



If we look at the above graph we can see that weekend usage is very atypical. The wait times are very short, approximately 41% are less than 5 minutes. This is averaged into the average month's waiting time and lowers it. This probably won't last much longer. As the situation worsens the weekend will probably grow to have the largest number of people fighting for computer services.