

**REPORT FROM FACULTY WELFARE COMMITTEE TO THE FACULTY
SENATE
DECEMBER 3, 1997**

**RESPONSE TO PROPOSED REVISIONS TO UNIVERSITY COMPUTING
POLICY**

At a previous meeting, the Senate referred several proposed changes in the University computer policies (Refer to ACAF 7.06, ACAF 7.07, DLIS 1.06, and DLIS 1.07 in the Policies and Procedures Manual of USC) to the Welfare Committee for its consideration. We have since reviewed the proposed policies and conferred with representatives of the University Committee on Academic Computing. These policies were proposed as a result of recommendations made by the internal auditors of the University. Based upon our review, we recommend that comments be submitted to the Office of the Provost either by this Committee or by resolution of the full Senate.

Our Comments are as follows:

**RE DRAFT POLICY ACAF 7.06 (MAY 1997)(UNIVERSITY DATA
SECURITY)**

The proposed policy would impose upon all computer users a number of requirements regarding use of passwords and encryption. We do not believe that the security proposal adequately reflects the differing needs for security or the differing uses of computers throughout the University. Also, centralized notification of encryption may not be desirable in all circumstances. It appears that if adopted as proposed, this policy may be widely ignored by users who might find the costs of compliance to exceed the benefits. Accordingly the Committee recommends further study of this issue, with particular consideration for the benefits that might be obtained from implementation of multiple levels of security, to reflect the differing needs and uses of computer equipment.

**RE DRAFT POLICY ACAF 7.07 (AUGUST 11, 1997) (COST RECOVERY
FOR SERVICES RENDERED)**

The Committee does not recommend any changes in the proposal.

RE DRAFT POLICY DLIS 1.06 (AUG. 11, 1997) (SOFTWARE LICENSING)

The Committee recommends deletion in paragraph 1, 2d line, of the words "to, or by, the University."

The Committee recommends replacing paragraph 2 with the following language:

"Any computer software, when loaded on University equipment, may be used only for purposes directly related to research, instruction, service, University operations, or other activities appropriate to and consistent with the function of the University."

The Committee recommends the deletion of paragraph 3 as repetitive of paragraph 1.
The Committee recommends the deletion of paragraph 4.

RE DRAFT POLICY DLIS 1.07 (INVENTORY CONTROL)

The Committee understands that current practice is not to require annual department inventories of property valued at less than \$5,000. A change in that policy would essentially impose inventory control costs at the unit level. The Committee recommends retention of BUSF 5.00 (Refer to BUSF 5.00 in the Policies and Procedures Manual of USC), instead of adoption of this proposed policy. However, the language of current BUSF 5.00 appears to require inventory of equipment valued at between \$500 and \$5,000. Accordingly, we recommend the deletion of the annual inventory requirements imposed upon departments for equipment under \$5,000.