

**FERMILAB COMPUTER COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

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The Report of the Ballam Committee (Fermilab TM-1230) entitled "Future Computing Needs for Fermilab," and dated December 1983, recommended in part that:

"A standing computer coordinating group, with membership of experts from all the principal computer user constituents of the Laboratory, should be appointed by and report to the Director. This group should meet on a regularly scheduled basis and be charged with continually reviewing all aspects of the Laboratory computing environment."

The Fermilab Computer Coordinating Committee was established by the Laboratory director in the spring of 1985 in response to this recommendation. The present membership of the committee is given at the end of this article. Members include interested parties from all aspects of Laboratory computing needs: the fixed-target experimental program; the collider program; the university user community; accelerator and beamlines controls; the business office; and, of course, the Computing Department itself.

The first meeting of the committee was held on June 28, 1985, and it has met every month or so since then. It has heard formal presentations from the group responsible for the new computer acquisition and from the Fermilab Advanced Computer Program. The head of the Computing Department regularly discusses the problems and progress of the department with the committee. Informal discussion around the table among the various disciplines represented is one of the valuable functions of the committee.

Three subcommittees have been set up to study policy questions regarding Laboratory-wide standards and to make recommendations which may serve as guidelines. These subcommittees are: Word Processing, Networking, and Graphics and Workstations. Each of these questions is complex, and has several equally useful solutions depending on the requirements of the particular user and on the technology available. Broad policy guidelines on these problems are anticipated in the next few months which will free members to take up other matters. Small standing committees will still probably be needed, however, to adapt the policies to changing conditions.

This is a very interesting time in the computing field, with a trend away from large central-computing facilities and towards user-friendly computing for everyone, no matter where they may be. Full data analysis in parallel with data acquisition, even

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at a hadron machine, appears to be an achievable goal. Computers are useful in all aspects of hardware design. These applications are moving targets - what can be done today pales in comparison with tomorrow.

The Laboratory community is encouraged to contact any member of the committee regarding Laboratory computing facilities or policies.

Membership of the Fermilab Computer Coordinating Committee:  
Lee Pondrom (chairman), University of Wisconsin

Word Processing Subcommittee

Don Beatty (chair), Fermilab Business Section  
John Cumulat, University of Colorado;  
Keith Ellis, Fermilab Theory Group;  
Jim Finks, Fermilab Business Section

Networking Subcommittee

Marvin Johnson (chair), Fermilab Accelerator Division  
Stewart Loken, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory  
Robert Trendler, Fermilab Research Division  
Steven Smith, Columbia University

Graphics and Workstations Subcommittee

David Quarrie, Fermilab/CDF (chair)  
Jeff Appel, Fermilab Computing Department  
Ray Brock, Michigan State University  
Jim Hanlon, Fermilab Physics Department  
Hugh Montgomery, Fermilab Computing Department  
Jack Pfister, Fermilab Computing Department  
Gerry Tool, Fermilab Accelerator Division