The first meeting of the Department Council for Academic Year 2001 - 2002 was held on Friday, October 26, 2001 beginning at noon. Larry Davis opened the meeting and asked the members for their suggestions regarding topics to be covered at the Faculty Retreat to be held January 23 and 24, 2002. It was agreed that the overall purpose should be to concentrate on strategic planning and to provide a time for faculty members to "voice comments" about a variety of issues. After much discussion it was agreed that the following topic areas would be addressed during the retreat:

1. Undergraduate Education:
   What should be the level of involvement for tenured, tenure-track faculty in lower level computer science education?
   Should the concept of restricting the undergraduate major be revisited?

2. Graduate Education:
   How should the graduate program be structured to encourage students' early involvement in research?
   How can the department get its graduate students into academic positions at "top institutions"?

3. Faculty Workload Distribution:
   Do field committees help or hinder the structuring of the education programs/course offerings, and do they contribute to workload imbalances?

4. Department Fund Raising/Publicity:
   What is the strategy to raise the visibility for the entire department vs. separate entities within the department?

It was further discussed that Dean Halperin should be invited to attend lunch during the retreat and that we should ask him to speak on specific topics, yet to be determined.

There was a brief discussion regarding the need for additional lab and office space as the department grows. Since it is not likely that we will acquire significant space in the near future, we must resolve space issues within the existing department allocation. Several ideas were proposed: divide large faculty offices into a 2/3rd - 1/3rd space distribution so that several new offices could be created; consider closing the graduate lounge and making it into a grad lab or another conference room (a message will be sent to the faculty asking their opinion before a decision is made); wherever possible, staff will be doubled up in offices. If the grad lounge is closed, we will find some small space on the 3rd floor to house a water cooler and microwave.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.