An Education Meeting was held on December 7, 2001 beginning at 2pm. Larry Davis opened the meeting by updating the faculty on several topics that were not listed in the original agenda.

1. Larry met with the Department Chair of the German Program which is part of the School of Foreign Languages. They are interested in having a double major with CS. Larry will request our web page be updated to list the possibility of the double major which may help the German Program in their undergraduate recruitment.

2. Lockheed Martin is interested in offering a certificate program to its employees. CS, UMIACS, and ISR could be involved. Next semester Larry will draft a proposal which can be used for further discussion by the faculty members.

3. Larry asked that the retreat agenda be sent to the entire faculty and that those who have been asked to present topics do so.

4. Dr. Mote wants a mentoring program for freshman students developed campus wide. Our Dean has asked each of the departments within CMPS to structure such a program with faculty participation on a volunteer basis. Each participating faculty member would meet with several students each semester. Larry feels that this is a good idea but does not feel that the department has the resources to fully implement such a program. He does hope that some of the faculty will volunteer to participate.

5. Steve Halperin is interested in charging lab fees for certain CS courses. This will not make money for the department but may provide a way to enhance some of our courses. Larry will form a committee with both instructor and tenured faculty representation who will meet with himself and personnel from OIT.

6. A proposal was made to require CMSC 251 as a prerequisite to 420. The floor was opened for discussion. It was determined that this could become effective spring 2003. A vote was taken with all in favor of the change. No abstentions or negative votes were noted.

7. JJ Maybury provided information on CMSC 298A - it was created in the Fall of 2000 with the intent of allowing instructors the ability to teach special topic winterterm courses. It was designed primarily for 100/200 level CMSC students. To date all CMSC 298 courses have been 1 or 2 credits and pass/fail only and mainly during winterterm. There is no intention for this to satisfy any major requirement and is purely an elective course.

8. Bill Pugh presented his thoughts regarding CMSC 114/214/Java. He has spent time during his sabbatical learning how other schools have switched their curriculum to offering java. He suggested that the focus should not be on Java but rather on teaching students how to write software and students seem to need more time writing software. Students should understand how programming languages work.

The floor was opened for discussion. One of the primary questions was when C++ should be taught within the program's curriculum. Concerns were voiced as to the sequencing of classes and a suggestion was made
that a committee with broader representation be formed to review the
subject more thoroughly and report back to the faculty next semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.