An Education Meeting was held on Friday, November 8, 2002 beginning at 2pm.

JJ Maybury presented a proposal to change the official wording of the prerequisites and catalog description for CMSC 107. The course is not required for CS majors. The problem is that upper-class students were taking the course for an "easy" A while others were under the false impression that the course would be an advanced UNIX course.

It was recommended that the course not be open to students who have completed CMSC 114 or a higher level course at UMCP. A motion was made and seconded that the proposal be accepted. The vote was unanimous in favor of the proposal.

There was a second proposal to change CMSC 412 but Jeff Hollingsworth was not present to discuss the change so the topic was tabled for discussion at another time.

Bill Gasarch summarized point by point the proposal to change graduate student requirements. The first suggestion was a decrease from 10 to 7 courses. Some faculty members felt that a requirement of 7 courses was too few and that it would be important to add a requirement of 2 - 3 additional graduate courses. Both breath and depth of a student's knowledge should be considered important. Others felt that a student's progress should not be delayed but did feel that the additional courses could be required later in the student's program. There was also a question asked about students who transferred into the program with their masters' degrees. What would the required number of courses be for these students? Although the question was not answered, it gave the committee members further issues to consider in the next draft of the proposal.

The second requirement had to do with reading lists for the preliminary oral exam. There was general discussion regarding the value of the reading lists and most agreed that the issue of the thesis proposal exam should be separated from an exam on advanced reading lists. A suggestion was made to require students to become familiar with one topic outside of their specialty area. A straw vote was taken and all but 3 members were in favor of this approach.

The third topic was referred to as "Black Friday". This idea stems from the desire of some faculty members to know more about the progress of all the graduate students. Bill Arbaugh explained the concept of "Black Friday" and how it is used at other academic institutions. It does make faculty members aware of who the graduate students are and their progress and it also impresses upon the graduate students the need to make progress towards their Ph.D. degrees. Initially the review could be done within the field committee or some sub-group and students not making progress could be passed onto the full faculty. They would be given one year to improve and if that did not occur, the student would be asked to leave. Currently students are cut off after two years of a teaching assistantship if they have no prospects for research support by a faculty member and if they have not shown any initiative in gaining that support.

Some comments centered around the need to identify strong students and encourage them in their work rather than identifying underachieving
students. Given the diversity of the comments, it was determined that some type of a review process is necessary. However, the magnitude of the problem, if there is one, must be defined and there was no consensus on the format of the review.

The fourth item within the proposal regarding a one credit course on how to conduct research was felt to have too many different objectives and needed to be further defined.

The committee on graduate requirements will take the various suggestions into consideration and try to further develop its report for discussion at a later meeting.

Dave Mount then presented the report from the second committee on lower division courses. Dave reviewed the timeline for implementation. He indicated that there were further details to be handled but that he thought there was sufficient information at this time for a vote to be taken and PCC paperwork to be completed so that courses could be implemented by the spring 2004. Gwen emphasized the importance of offering calculus 1 early in a student's course schedule so that the role of math in the curriculum is stressed.

There was little discussion of the revised report. A motion was made to accept the revised proposal and seconded. All members voted in favor of the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.