Computing Research Association
Conference at Snowbird 2000

Slides from a workshop
on the topic of

"Distance Education/Learning"

presented by

Daniel Reed,
University of Illinois,
Champaign-Urbana

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1:30 pm

http://www.cra.org/Activities/snowbird/00/wk4-5.html

Distance Learning at Illinois

Dan Reed
Head, Department of Computer Science

reed@cs.uiuc.edu
http://www.cs.uiuc.edu

Illinois MCS Program

■ **Masters of CS (MCS)**

– professional masters degree

» non-thesis, course only

– long offered on the UIUC campus

» roughly 50% of CS masters' students

■ **Degree requirements**

– nine courses with distribution requirements

» software, architecture, and theory

– additional courses from targeted areas

» graphics, multimedia, AI, numerical analysis, ...

Internet MCS

- **Same courses as offered on campus**
  - digital video capture
  - streaming Internet delivery
    - » Microsoft Media Player
    - » coupled lecture notes (Powerpoint and PDF)
  - electronic discussion groups
- **Degree and non-degree options**
  - auditing also allowed
- **Two IMCS programs**
  - individual/corporate site
  - Quantum Institute (India)

Internet MCS

- Revenue positive
  - net influx of departmental resources
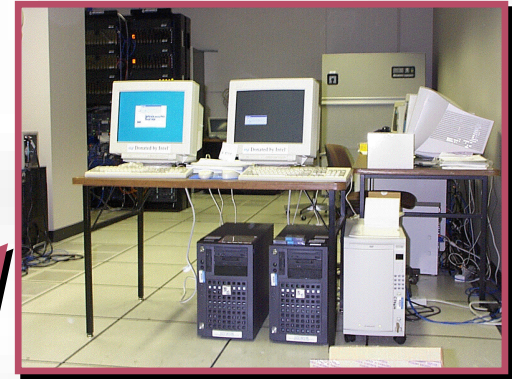 - funding for infrastructure upgrades

- Faculty salary incentives
  - extra teaching load
  - course material reuse

- Loosely synchronous (primarily)
  - some summer time shifting

Illinois Distance Learning

Delivery

Capture

Distribution

http://www.cs.uiuc.edu/education/grad/degrees/imcs/

Quantum Institute

- **Site based program**
  - local content delivery
  - computer facilities
  - IIT faculty as proctors/advisors
  - additional TAs at UIUC
  - all grading done at UIUC
- **Four sites**
  - New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad
- **UIUC admission control**

http://www.quantum.edu

Quantum Institute

New Delhi Site

Positives and Negatives

- Videotaping has improved lecture quality
  - embarrassment ☹
  - organized and formatted materials ☺
- Distributed teams bring new experiences
  - on/off campus students and group projects
- Asynchrony
  - remote students fare best when loosely synchronized
  - *local students can time shift courses*
- Inclusion
  - access for learning disorders/physically challenged
- Content ownership remains an issue

Siebel Center

- Thomas M. Siebel Center for Computer Science
  - $32M donation (Siebel a CS alumnus)
  - $75M state of the art building
  - 250,000 square foot (gross) facility
  - 70 research faculty
  - 580 graduate students
  - basis for expanded IT education
    - 1500-2000 undergraduate CS majors
    - economic engine for Illinois

- Distance education insights guiding design