

**MEETING of the EDUCAUSE CONSTITUENT GROUP
on SOFTWARE LICENSING ISSUES**

Thursday, December 10, 1998

CAUSE98 -- Seattle

Reported by Larry Rapagnani

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About 40 people attended this meeting. Although this constituent group is focused on licensing issues in general, I asked Microsoft to attend to address any issues related to the recently announced Campus Agreement license.

Jeff Sullivan, Ann Marie McCloud, Kim Johnston and Rebecca Needham attended for Microsoft and talked about three issues associated with Campus Agreement. Those are: CD distribution, buy-outs for faculty and staff, and buy-outs for students leaving the program. They would like to keep the current advisory committee together until these issues are resolved. They stressed that Select and Open are still available and that Campus Agreement is a yearly renewal program. They are quite different programs.

There were quite a few questions from the group, some from individuals representing schools from foreign countries. They were able to answer most questions without much difficulty. Plus, we had the opportunity to hear how these agreements played out in other countries. Some of the countries hadn't started with Campus Agreement yet so they really enjoyed the conversation.

I did have the opportunity to ask Microsoft to comment on how they thought working through an advisory group worked out for them. I also asked those in attendance from the advisory group to do the same. Both sides felt the interactions between Microsoft and the advisory group was extremely beneficial and thought it was a good forum for both sides to understand each other and hammer out an agreement. Would recommend this as an approach again.

This set the stage for the group to discuss whether we wanted to continue as a recognized constituent group. Bottom line, under the correct conditions they would. The group would favor meeting at the next EDUCAUSE meeting if we are working through the issues. The group wants to focus on a specific agenda and target specific vendors (ie, Netscape, Oracle, Adobe) and if additional advisory groups are needed to include smaller schools. I suggested that if we were to do this that EDUCAUSE could be a "door opener" for us. I stated I would talk to EDUCAUSE President Brian Hawkins about this, which I did. He doesn't have a problem with this approach but would like to review any work the group does before he commits.