

A PILOT PROJECT IN GREEK & ROMAN STUDIES

Project Report

January 9, 1996

Report of the first planning meeting

A group of faculty members from the ACS met during the annual meetings of the American Philological Association and the Archaeological Institute of America in San Diego on December 30. Attending were Mark Garrison from Trinity, Hal Haskell from Southwestern, Walt Stevenson from Richmond, Livia Tenzer and Kenny Morrell from Rhodes. The agenda for the meeting covered issues in two broad categories: the format of the workshops and the budget for the project.

A. Format of workshops.

The group reached a consensus on the preliminary date of the conference, which is scheduled to begin in the morning of Monday, June 17 and conclude in the evening of Saturday, June 22. The group will set the final date in early April.

With regard to the working objectives of the workshop, the group decided to proceed according to the agenda outlined in the proposal to the Mellon Foundation with a special emphasis on the World Wide Web. Kenny will send a selection of readings and texts about the internet, World Wide Web, and HTML to the group for review prior to their work in Memphis. During the workshop the group will focus on building an integrated web site for Greek and Roman Studies, which will include home pages for the participants, an archive of images and textual modules for use in classes, and a library of scholarly material contributed by the participants. The group will also discuss the possibility of collaboration in select courses during the 1996-1997 academic year.

After reviewing the program for the conference, the group also decided to begin making preliminary arrangements with consultants to address the issues related to the agenda. Kenny approached James O'Donnell from the University of Pennsylvania as a consultant concerning on-line courses. He requested that we contact him later in the spring when his schedule for the summer months is more clear. Kenny has received tentative commitments from Suzanne Bonefas from Miami University of Ohio, who will discuss her work with MOO's; Ross Scaife from the University of Kentucky, who will work with the group on issues related to maintaining a web site; Gregory Crane from Tufts University, who will talk about the Perseus web site at Tufts as well as the development of the on-line lexicon for Greek; and Thomas Martin from the College of the Holy Cross, who will discuss organizational and pedagogical

concerns for “traditional” courses that undergo revision to incorporate computer-based materials.

With regard to computing equipment, the group felt that it would be ideal if each participant could bring a portable system to the conference, which she or he could use in class during the academic year. Working intensively with the actual systems participants will use during the year would give all participants in the workshop experience with basic issues of support and maintenance.

Finally, Kenny discussed with the group preliminary plans for a system of voice communications to support the needs of the group during the project.

B. Budget

Kenny submitted a preliminary detailed budget for the group to review. Because the needs and constraints of the programs in Greek and Roman Studies vary so much across the institutions, the group felt that it should propose some modifications to the budget as outlined in the Mellon proposal. While keeping within the general categories of the budget and the overall dollar amount, the group proposes four main changes:

1. Because some of the prospective participants are not in the position to request released time, the group proposes to increase the amount of the stipend for attending the summer workshops to \$1000.00 instead of \$500.00 as stipulated in the Mellon budget. This will allow the group to allocate funds among the institutions more fairly.
2. Increasing the stipends with money earmarked for released time also allows the group to fund two intensive, six-day workshops instead of one five-day workshop and a three-day follow-up conference. Sponsoring two workshops of equal duration, one in the summer of 1996 and a second in the summer of 1997, will allow the group to include more members of the faculty in the project as well as use the second workshop to build on the accomplishments of the first.
3. These changes will still leave sufficient funds to pay for student assistants, who can help offset the lost released time. The group proposes to allocate funds for student assistants to institutions according to the overall objectives of the project rather than in “block grants.” This will give the group the means and flexibility to employ those students who can best serve the needs of the project regardless of where the student is enrolled.
4. In addition to the modest sum for student assistants during the academic year, the proposed budget calls for a minimal amount of funding for administrative expenses, including, most importantly, money for voice communication, which will provide a network for technical support. In the second year, administrative expenses also include funds for a meeting of an evaluation committee, which will draft a narrative report of the project and formulate plans for subsequent collaboration.