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PANEL 1 COMPUTER-SUPPORTED FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

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PANEL 1

COMPUTER-SUPPORTED FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

Panel Chair: Jay F. Nunamaker, Jr., University of Arizona

Several universities are currently devoting a substantial amount of resources toward the study of computer-supported face-to-face meetings. The purpose of this panel is to hear from representatives of six institutions about the status of their research programs and where their research in this area will be headed during the next five years. Several unique qualities make this an attractive panel discussion topic:

- A substantial amount of university, corporate, and government funding is currently being directed to research in this area.
- Most institutions are adopting a team approach toward research, with participation by faculty and students from a variety of disciplines. Work with referent disciplines is bringing interesting theoretical perspectives to the research.
- The six universities represented on this panel all have laboratory facilities for the study of computer-supported meetings. Also, all of these research teams are coordinating their work with industry. In this sense, the topic is not an "ivory tower" research area.
- Institutions doing GDSS research are making a concerted effort to coordinate their work with one another to avoid duplicating effort while at the same time following different research paths so that research can accumulate.

MINI-PANEL 1: RESEARCH STATUS AND DILEMMAS

Panelists: Robert P. Bostrom, University of Georgia
Marilyn Mantei, University of Toronto
Gerardine DeSanctis, University of Minnesota

This panel will address the following issues: Is the computer-supported meetings research area a "fad" or a substantive, long-term research topic in information systems? What are the theoretical bases for research in this area? What important findings have we learned in our research programs thus far? What key research dilemmas confront research in the area as it moves into the future? What opportunities and problems are associated with studying computer-supported meetings in organizations?

MINI-PANEL 2: RESEARCH DIRECTIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Panelists Paul Gray, Claremont Graduate School
Poppy McLeod, University of Michigan
Doug Vogel, University of Arizona

This panel will address the following issues: Where are research groups going with their work in this area? What is, or should be, the plan for research during the next five years? What theoretical approaches and empirical methods are appropriate for the future of this research? How will research plans and results be integrated across institutions and settings? How will research in this area ultimately be linked to practice? What research questions must be examined if meeting technology is to be a viable organizational tool of the future?