

UI prof, students advise White House on e-mail

By The News-Gazette and The Associated Press

URBANA — A Professor from the University of Illinois and four of his students have advised a White House aide on how the president can improve electronic communication with the public.

Noshir Contractor, a professor of speech communication, and the students and a professor from Arizona State briefed the aide on a study they conducted on electronic correspondence between the White House and the public.

They also give a report to the aide, Jonathan Gill, director of electronic mail for the White House.

The instructors and students did the study on their own. Students tapped into a large electronic communications network to survey users on how best to respond effectively to thousands of messages a day and how to make a public electronic mail system accessible.

The students suggested the president staff a new White House electronic mail system

with college students participating in his proposed National Service program.

They also recommended establishment of a quality control system for approving outgoing messages.

Executive branch officials said they found the report helpful — particularly suggestions for dealing with some organizational matters, Contractor said.

"They said that these are issues that they have been thinking a lot about, but they have spent more time focusing on the design of software and hardware," Contractor said.

For example, one question is whether all e-mail messages sent to the White House should be acknowledged.

"Most of the people we had interviewed felt it was very important," even if the reply is a simple thank-you, Contractor said.

Officials asked Contractor to send a copy of the report to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where a group is designing a new e-mail program for the White House, he said.

Clinton loc

WASHINGTON (AP) — Resident Clinton, nearing a decision on his first Supreme Court nominee, is concentrating on moderate as a premier opportunity to prove his credentials, administration officials say.

"I'm pretty close" to making a selection, Clinton told reporters after jogging this morning.

Several Clinton advisers close to the selection process, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said an announcement would be made within 10 days, perhaps as early as next day but more likely next week.

Three male federal appeals court judges considered to be pragmatic centrists are among the most widely cited candidates. They are

Clinton camp

By The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has delayed its plans to push for a higher minimum wage because of worries about undermining job growth and antagonizing conservatives and business executives while the president's budget hangs in the balance, administration officials said Wednesday.

They said the administration would probably wait until next year, and then propose an increase in the \$4.25-an-hour minimum wage that would be far

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