To: UTC
From: Deborah Anderson, SEI, UC Berkeley
Date: August 7, 2007
RE: Greek mute iota, documents L2/07-068 (and L2/07-198)

I am forwarding a comment below from Donald Mastronarde, who has been working on the development and maintenance of the American Philological Association font and keyboard for Greek. He is Melpomene Distinguished Professor of Classical Languages and Literature. Briefly, he prefers L2/07–068's option A, i.e. to always encode mute iota as U+0345, regardless of desired appearance, and to handle variations in display preference at the glyph level.

-----Original Message-----
From: Donald Mastronarde [djmastronarde@berkeley.edu]
Sent: Sunday, August 05, 2007 11:43 AM
To: Deborah Anderson

Dear Debbie,

I am strongly in favor of option a. What is essential (as Nick Nicholas persuaded me several years ago) is that the encoding for lowercase and capital vowels with the mute iota be distinct, not that their appearance be distinct from vowel plus voiced iota. The later is a matter of glyph design and editorial preference. Some editors (justifiably) prefer that what is encoded as alpha with iota subscript be printed to look identical to alpha plus iota, with the disambiguation left to the reader's knowledge of accentuation, metrical patterns, and morphological analysis. Other editors prefer various other representations.

The other proposals just create confusion.

Since Unicode has refused to encode really useful forms like epsilon with macron and smooth and acute, saying that they should be left to rendering with smart font features (a four-element composition for which the OSes and applications seem still to fumble over the OpenType definition), I can't see why they would not leave this much simpler graphic alternative to glyph variation and smart font features.