

Information Technology Council Minutes

March 3, 1998: 9:00 am - 1:30 PM
Canyon Gate Country Club, Las Vegas

Present: Chair Davan Weddle, SCS; Stan Aiazzi, GBC; John Case, Chair ATSC; Michelle Dondero, WNCC; Juanita Fain, UNLV; Rita Huneycutt, TMCC; Katrina Meyer, Dir. Distance Learning; Norval Pohl, UNLV; Al Ruter, CCSN; Becky Seibert, SCS; Robert Wharton, DRI; Steve Zink, UNR

1. Introduction of New ITC members

Van Weddle introduced Katrina Meyer, Director of Distance Learning and Technology. Katrina joined the staff of the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs in February. She spoke briefly on her work with the Academic Vice Presidents in creating an academic plan for distance education as the basis for budget requests. The group is working to identify programs, sites, and available technical resources. She also spoke about Nevada's association with the Western Governors' University. Interested campuses can become involved as a provider of courses, as a facilitator in making WGU courses available in the community, or as a learning center, as CCSN is doing. The WGU web site is www.westgov.org/smart/vu/vu.html. Katrina's email address is kmeyer@nevada.edu.

Van also introduced John Case, Assistant Vice President and Controller at DRI, and chair of the Administrative Technology Steering Committee. The ATSC provides support for administrative technology within the UCCSN, making recommendations, developing policies and participating in budget planning. Information on the ASTC can be found at www.nevada.edu/atsc. John's email address is jcase@dri.edu.

Katrina and John will be joining the ITC to facilitate coordination and communication with respect to system-wide technology planning and implementation.

2. Approval of January 7 Minutes

Minutes of the January 7, 1998, meeting were approved without corrections. The minutes showed that the UCCSN Computing Resources Policy was to have been a topic for this meeting. Because there have been no changes in the policy's status, discussion has been postponed until the next ITC meeting. A number of campuses are struggling with establishing appropriate policies, and there is interest among the Council members in discussing this soon. The current policy draft can be found at www.scs.unr.edu/scs/compuse.html.

3. Data Warehousing Report and 1999-2001 Technology Budget Request

The Council discussed the draft Data Warehousing statement and provided suggestions for revision. The initial audience will be the Chancellor and his staff, the Presidents and the Board of Regents. The eventual audience will be the Legislature. Becky will revise the document and send it out to Council members before the next meeting. Suggestions:

- Refer to legislative transcripts to familiarize ourselves with the intentions expressed by the Legislature.
- Some campuses will probably need to elaborate on how the funds were spent, but this will be requested by Tom Anderes if he needs it.
- Accomplishments should be expressed now as "what will be accomplished by the end of the 97-99 biennium." The statement will need to be revised later in the biennium and closer to the legislative session. Perhaps accomplishments can be described as percentages or as phases.
- Remove references to specific campuses in describing campus objectives.
- Leave out the section "Objectives which will not be accomplished."
- Expand the reference to future funding needed for data warehouse support. What is the nature of the "support" needed?
- Integrate specific objectives into three categories targeted for future funding.

4. SCS Plans to Upgrade SIS and Associated Budget Request

The UCCSN Student Information System (SIS), which supports student admissions, registration, records, accounts, financial aid, degree audit and transcripts is scheduled for a major software upgrade by the vendor, Informs. The impact on all institutions and the cost of the upgrade are significant. Van discussed with the Council the choices facing SCS and the costs for the upgrade. The committee asked about Informs, what other institutions are using SIS, whether there is any ongoing money to be applied to the costs, what risks are involved, and what student information software would cost from other vendors. SCS is preparing an information sheet about the SIS upgrade. The Council suggested information to be included in that sheet. After discussion all Council members expressed their support for the path SCS is proposing and agreed to pass along the information provided to them by SCS to their Presidents and other key campus individuals. The SIS Upgrade Information will be sent to Council members and placed on the ITC web site, www.nevada.edu/itc.

5. SCS Budget Request for Acquiring Joint UCCSN/Nevada Department of Information Technology System in Las Vegas

Van explained briefly the discussion underway between SCS and DoIT to locate a server at the SCS Southern Facility to provide additional capacity, backup and disaster recovery for the UCCSN and the state. Council members expressed concern about the \$1.6 million cost and whether the UCCSN would benefit sufficiently from the partnership. It was recommended that this request be presented independently of the SIS upgrade request.

6. SCS Budget Request for A High Speed Network Between Las Vegas and Reno

This budget request was presented briefly. Discussion was postponed until the next ITC meeting. Steve Zink offered to provide some background on Internet 2 and the vBNS at that meeting.

7. Budget Request for K-12 Technology Support

Van explained that SCS feels an obligation to make K-12 network and technology needs known to the State Department of Education and the Legislature. SCS has prepared a nearly \$1 million request, which needs funding, but need not be funded within the UCCSN budget. The message from SCS is that we cannot adequately support the continued expansion of the Nevada School Network unless funds are allocated for support personnel. The Council recommended that SCS make clear the assumptions we made in preparing the request, for example, the assumption that the NevadaNet backbone upgrade will be funded.

8. Video Unit Replacement

A memorandum concerning CLI Video Conference Systems Replacement and a list of each campus' video equipment inventory was distributed to the Council. Van requested that each campus consider whether to request funds for video unit replacements in the upcoming biennial request. A question was asked about whether the funds should be requested as part of a distance education request. There was no definitive answer.

9. ITC Issues for Future Discussion

The next meeting will deal with the data warehousing and technology request, with the need to connect to the vBNS and join Internet II, and with the UCCSN Computing Resources Policy and campus policies. Tom Anderes will be invited to participate. The meeting will be scheduled sometime between March 23 and April 3.