

Information Technology Council Minutes

March 24, 1999, 9:00 a.m.
Las Vegas, UNLV Campus

Present: Chair Davan Weddle, SCS; Stan Aiazzi, GBC; Bob Barry, WNCC; John Case, DRI; Juanita Fain, UNLV; David Keebler, TMCC; Sally Phares, SCS; Al Ruter, CCSN; Becky Seibert, SCS; Lori Temple, UNLV; David Westfall, UNR; and Steve Zink, UNR.

1. Introductions

Van welcomed new ITC member, Lori Temple, UNLV's Associate Provost for Information Technology, and SCS Directors, Jim Hanna, Director of Applications and Technical Services and Sally Phares, Director of Customer Services.

2. UCCSN Strategic Planning for Technology

The Council discussed the 3/24/99 draft of the UCCSN Strategic Technology Plan. Becky Seibert agreed to incorporate the suggestions and send members a revised version. Some suggestions were: to include a section on establishing a strategy for stable funding of technology; to move specific campus and SCS plans to attached links; to articulate the plan as one comprehensive plan for the UCCSN; to include security and assessment issues in the plan; to include a strategy to regularly reevaluate strategies; and to more clearly articulate the SCS and campus roles. The stable funding issue was of the highest importance for the Council, and members agreed to pursue it with their various constituencies.

3. SCS Administrative Computing Plans - Jim Hanna

Jim Hanna reviewed the background and status of the Informs SIS Java Y2K upgrade and discussed the problems encountered in January when the loads from web registration brought SIS to a halt. IBM made it possible for SCS to activate a third CPU, which SCS is not scheduled to pay for until July. Negotiations with other software vendors were also required because of the additional processing capacity. Registration proceeded normally after several difficult days. The experience made it even clearer that the additional capacity planned for the coming biennium is essential.

Jim reviewed the status of the SIS enhancement budget and SCS plans for the coming biennium. SCS had requested \$3.97 million for SIS and the resources it requires. To date, SCS has been informed that \$3 million will be available for the project. SCS plans to use the funding to meet three goals: SIS upgrade fees, additional processing capacity for SIS and web processes, and redundancy for disaster recovery. Plans include increasing the Reno system capacity to four processors, placing a system in Las Vegas with two 45 MIP CPUs, locating SIS on the Reno platform, locating HRS and Advantage on the Las Vegas platform, and establishing environments where critical functions from all three applications could run in Las Vegas or Reno in the event of a disaster. He discussed SCS options for achieving these goals with only \$3 million. The Council found no problem with financing the project if the full amount cannot be found by July.

Jim agreed to keep the Council informed of the SIS upgrade timeline.

4. NevadaNet Contingency Plans

The Council was given copies of a memorandum Van prepared for the Chancellor on the impact of not funding the UCCSN network enhancement request. The critical enhancement budget request was to cover Nevada's share of connecting UCCSN research institutions to the high-speed national network. NSF and EPSCoR grants were awarded to UCCSN on the assumption that the state would fund Nevada's

matching share. SCS has prepared a minimal budget of \$1.1 million that would meet our obligations. The Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs has assured the institutions involved and the SCS that the money will be found somehow, and the grant funds will not have to be returned.

Van also reported on another negotiation underway to exchange state right-of-way along highway 80 for bandwidth between Reno and Las Vegas. If successful, this agreement could solve the problem of the missing state funds for high-speed connectivity.