

Information Technology Council Minutes

June 12, 1998: 9:00 am - 1:00 PM
Tam Alumni Center, UNLV, Las Vegas

Present: Chair Van Weddle, SCS; Stan Aiuzzi, GBC; Bob Barry, WNCC; Dick Belaustegui, SCS; John Case, Chair ATSC; Juanita Fain, UNLV; Jane Nichols, System Admin.; Norval Pohl, UNLV; Al Ruter, CCSN; Becky Seibert, and Steve Zink, UNR.

1. Review of Minutes from March 25 Meeting
Minutes of the March 23, 1998, meeting were approved without corrections.
2. UCCSN Network Plans and Budget
Dick Belaustegui, Director of Telecommunications Services, briefed the Council on current initiatives and funding needs for the statewide network. A summary, "UCCSN NevadaNet Budget Enhancement Request," can be found on the ITC web site. The request is organized into three priorities: Network Capacity for Research, Network Capacity for Instruction and Administration, and Network Capacity for Video.

The research infrastructure requirement includes high-speed links between Las Vegas and Reno, to UNR and DRI research facilities, and to the vBNS. The north/south link may be obtained as part of a State of Nevada/UCCSN RFP recently issued for free bandwidth in exchange for highway rights of way. Dick reported that eleven vendors attended a pre-bid meeting held on June 11. Federal, state and county representatives expressed support for the project. The Council asked questions about the business case for responding vendors and about what role Nevada Bell might play. The successful bidder might install the approximately 100 miles of missing fiber and negotiate with Nevada Bell for access on either end or might install fiber for the entire distance between Las Vegas and Reno. A Nevada fiber route could provide looping and backup for both California and Utah north/south fiber links. Responses to the RFP are due by July 25. It was emphasized that the Legislature should receive a clear picture of this effort. Steve Zink suggested briefing campus legislative relations staffs.

The needs for instruction and administration include enhanced links to Elko, ATM switching technology for seven rural sites, and upgrading Nevada's non-research link to the Internet. (ATM technology for Reno and Las Vegas will be accomplished during the current biennium.) Increased video capacity is needed because of growth in numbers of video sites throughout the state. SCS currently has plans for 25 video installations and upgrades before fall 1998. An active video connection uses a quarter of a T1 link. Seven additional Telecommunications staff positions are being requested as part of these initiatives. The Council pointed out that K-12 and UCCSN instruction and administration would benefit from priority one as well research. It would be more accurate and politically wise to extend the definition of priority one to include non-research constituencies. There was some discussion of the presidents' plans to add video units for administrative use. SCS, having heard nothing more on this, has no current plans for this expansion. Members agreed to find out their presidents' plans. Van expressed his appreciation to Dick for his hard work on the current network initiatives.

3. Graphical Access Policy (PPP)
Jane Nichols, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, brought a graphical network access issue before the Council. While graphical Internet access is in demand, it is apparent that UCCSN cannot afford to expand graphical dial-in access to accommodate all UCCSN and K-12 students. Unfortunately, the Legislature has the perception that we have been funded through SB204 and AB606 to provide that service for K-12. Council members agreed that campuses are not currently providing that service for their students and do not see it as a high enough priority to merit the cost. Jane's office has done some research on how other states handle the issue by

working with a commercial provider, and she distributed a document to the Council with a sample RFP from Hawaii. That model includes a University/Department of Education contract with a vendor for the exclusive right to provide graphical Internet access and 24 hour help desk support for students, staff and alumni for a single discounted fee per user.

The Council discussed several issues including: whether to continue providing text email access for students, whether to continue providing graphical access for faculty and graduate students on some campuses, whether faculty includes K-12 faculty, whether to negotiate an exclusive contract with one vendor or offer several "preferred providers," whether a single vendor could offer consistent service and fees throughout Nevada, and whether to continue supporting the K-12 Nevada School Network servers with or without reimbursement.

Van agreed that SCS would collect information about possible vendors and prices. Jane asked Council members to discuss the issues on their campuses. Jane requested that a statement be drafted explaining UCCSN policy on providing graphical access from home to assist her in conversations with the Department of Education. She said she would be taking this issue to the Nevada Commission on Educational Technology for discussion as well.

4. Appropriate System Software Licenses

Becky Seibert summarized current SCS involvement in system-wide software licenses. Exclusive of administrative application software licenses, SCS annually spends approximately \$30,000 on applications running on SCS servers (\$16,000 for SPSS, SAS, Minitab and IMSL, \$14,000 on BRS for NEON). In addition SCS spends about \$30,000 on Digital and Sun operating system software which is available to all campuses. (SCS would spend most of this for internal use whether others used the site licenses or not.) SCS also spends approximately \$17,000 on desktop software licenses for IMSL, virus protection, and administrative desktop client software that provides limited coverage for some campus desktops. There are also a number of agreements negotiated by SCS but paid by campuses or individual users and a number of agreements negotiated and paid solely by individual campuses or campus units.

Council members were asked to consider what role SCS should play in software licensing. The Connectivity group is currently discussing whether to negotiate a system-wide virus protection software license for desktop computers. This topic will appear on a future ITC agenda.

5. UCCSN Computing Resources Policy Process

SCS has received comments on the proposed policy from UNLV, CCSN, UNR and the ACLU. They will be reviewing the responses and rewriting the policy during the summer. The intention is to simplify the policy, address contentious issues and propose a policy that campuses can support. The policy will be reviewed again in the fall. While support may not be universal, a reasonable policy should be presented for adoption by the presidents and the regents and put into place by spring 1999. Stan Aiazzi offered SCS some policy software he purchased.

6. UCCSN System Computing Services - Current Major Projects

Van called the committee's attention to a recent update of "UCCSN System Computing Services - Current Major Projects," now available on the SCS web site.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.