

Information Technology Council Minutes

November 24, 1997, 12:00 noon- 3:00 p.m.
System Administration Office, Reno

Members present: Chair, Davan Weddle, Stan Aiazzi, Michelle Dondero, Juanita Fain, David Keebler, Norval Pohl, Al Ruter, Robert Wharton, and Steven Zink.

Others present: Chancellor Jarvis, Tom Anderes, Dick Belaustegui, Floyd Burnett, Sally Phares and Becky Seibert.

Welcome and Introductions

Van Weddle welcomed the Council members, thanked them for attending and remarked that this is their committee. He expressed the hope that they will represent technology issues within their individual areas of concern and work together as a whole. Each member introduced him/herself with information about campus affiliation and responsibilities. It was decided that communication among the Council will be primarily via email and the ITC web page.

Chancellor's Charge to the Council

In discussing the role of the ITC, Chancellor Jarvis emphasized planning for a successful 99/01 biennial budget request, providing accountability for the 97/99 technology budget allocation, defining clear objectives and an articulated vision for technology development, and providing a communication conduit with constituencies and campuses about technology issues. Council members were chosen to represent constituencies, such as student affairs, business interests and research, as well as institutions. While the ITC is not intended as an oversight board for System Computing Services, suggestions for needed technology assistance or changes are welcome. In addition to the budget request of immediate importance, the Chancellor considers course transfer and articulation, legal liability issues, high speed networking and strategic planning for technology of particular importance to his agenda for the ITC.

Planning for the 1999-2001 Technology Budget Request

The Chancellor and Vice Chancellor Anderes spoke about assistance they need from the ITC in preparation for the next legislative session. They provided background on the successes and problems of the past session. Oversight and evaluation of compliance with 97/99 legislative intent are important to a future request. An accounting of how the first year's funds were expended; the status of data warehousing development or explanations of variances in funding allocations; and a logical progression to objectives and requests for the next biennium are important pieces of this effort. A crucial objective will be planning and justifying a continuation of the Estate Tax funding stream. The continuing effort to inform the Legislature and public about the importance of technologists in any technology request should be included.

Tom will provide the Council with information about the 97/99 request and testimony to assist them in understanding the legislative intent for technology funding. He will also devise a structure to assist the Council in providing accountability for previous funding and input into the next budget request. He will be happy to attend ITC meetings and would like some formal input from the ITC in early March.

Chancellor Jarvis summarized the budget discussion, emphasizing three requirements- implement data warehousing, address LCB audit issues and provide accountability with respect to legislative intent.

Update on System Technology Initiatives

Sally Phares, Director Customer Services, called Customer Services the "doorway to SCS" and summarized the functions of Support Services, Professional Services, and Applications and Network

Services. She gave examples of IBM and academic help desk support, web page development, policy preparation, and LAN support, and indicated that Customer Services can provide support tailored to varying needs of the UCCSN institutions. Sally is also responsible for the SCS southern facility.

In a discussion of computer use policies Steve Zink commented that requiring a student computer account holder to acknowledge acceptance of policies with a signature is important to UNR and might be considered throughout the system. Stan Aiazzi suggested that policies be cross checked against the Board of Regents Handbook and Code. Sally added that the General Counsel's Office is reviewing the computer use policy under consideration. Al Ruter initiated a discussion of how First Amendment rights bear on UCCSN restrictions.

Richard Belaustegui, Director of Telecommunications Services, provided documentation on the resources and services associated with the UCCSN statewide network, NevadaNet. He also distributed maps of the current network and the AB606 network additions under development. The document and maps are available on the ITC web site at <http://www.nevada.edu/itc/nevadanet.html>. Dick discussed the system-wide Connectivity Committee, which addresses technical connectivity issues and makes recommendations. He suggested that Connectivity proposals be addressed to the ITC in future. (Connectivity Minutes will be made available on the ITC web site.) Dick summarized major Telecommunications projects underway: 13 new connections funded by AB606, cooperation with EPSCoR in grant requests to increase backbone and internet bandwidth, cooperation with state agencies in selecting a new video equipment and services vendor, network authentication and authorization initiatives, and video services for various state agencies. Issues for Telecommunications include connectivity for UCCSN/K-12 technology centers, cooperation on K-12 technology plans, e-rate discounts, and requests for video switching for state agencies. Dick emphasized the need for expanded bandwidth, additional support personnel and plans for dealing with equipment obsolescence.

Michele Dondero suggested that we are not taking advantage of good public relations opportunities with respect to network services provided to the K-12 community.

Floyd Burnett, Director of Applications and Technical Services, explained some major initiatives underway. HRS release 9.5 and the new financial system, Advantage 2.0 are scheduled for October, 1998 implementation and will accommodate year 2000 issues. CUFS data, originally organized by business center is being split out by institution. Banking services are moving to Wells Fargo in January, 1998. Position Control, following implementation of the new HRS and financial systems, will be available by July, 1999, or earlier if possible. Phone registration functions will be available on the web early next year. IBM hardware was replaced in October, bringing capacity from 80 MIPS to 120 MIPS. Disks were expanded. Two refrigerator sized cabinets replaced a roomful of equipment. A robotic tape system will be installed in December, reducing backup time from several hours to several minutes. The FOCUS Integrator will be replaced with the use of Oracle databases on the mainframe.

Status of Data Warehouse Project

Ginger Holladay-Houston, Assistant Director of Applications and Technical Services, reported on the status of the System Administration data warehouse which is being designed to serve the query, reporting and analysis needs of the System Administration office, Great Basin College and Western Nevada Community College. In addition to a definition of the data warehouse, Ginger provided a summary of the steps undertaken, the status of each phase and plans for continuing development. A document summarizing her comments is available at ../archive/datawarehousing.html.

In response to a question about how student FTE will be reported, Ginger said that for two years campuses will continue to report FTE as in the past while System Administration attempts to resolve data variance problems. Several Council members expressed concern that institutional representatives be included in defining business terms. It is expected that Tamela Gorden will be consulting with campuses on this. A question was raised about whether campuses will have access to other campuses' data. They

will not. Campus representatives for addressing SIS data accuracy problems have been identified; however, financial data representatives have not.

Future Meeting Plans

Council members agreed that an early January meeting should be scheduled to deal with biennial budget preparation. Becky Seibert will contact Council members via email with several meeting alternatives and will work with Tom Anderes to provide budget materials prior to the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Seibert