

**MINUTES OF THE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**
Wednesday, April 25, 2001 – 1:00 p.m. – Room 403 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. David H. Steele, Chair
Rep. Richard M. Siddoway, Chair
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. Paul Ray
Mr. Ronald L. Fox
Mr. Robert W. Hood
Mr. Garth Howard
Commissioner Stephen F. Mecham
Mr. Leon Miller
Mr. Jerold G. Oldroyd
Mr. David A. Packer
Dr. Phillip Windley

Members Absent:

Dr. Bonnie Morgan
Dr. Mike Petersen

Members Excused:

Mr. Daniel J. Becker
Mr. Cameron V. Francis
Mr. Peter R. Genereaux
Ms. Nancy CW Gibbs

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North,
Research Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Junie G. Anderson,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Chair Steele called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and introduced new commission members – Sen. Karen Hale, Sen. Scott Jenkins, Rep. Paul Ray, and Dr. Phillip Windley. Mr. Myron March represented Mr. Daniel Becker who was unable to attend the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Hood moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2000 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Legislative Recap (Information Technology) - 2001 General Session

Mr. North distributed a memorandum “2001 General Session - Information Technology Legislation” and summarized the information technology legislation addressed in the 2001 General Session.

3. Appropriation Recap (Information Technology) - 2001 General Session

Mr. Jon Ball, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, gave a slide presentation “Recap of Legislative Appropriations Action on Information Technology” and distributed copies to commission members.

4. Utah's Information Technology Future

Dr. Phillip Windley, Chief Information Officer - Utah, gave a slide presentation "Utah's Information Technology Future." He summarized the presentation by saying that through the use of information technology resources, "we can transform government." He also said people are not surprised to find services online; Utah must bring service to the people wherever they live.

Dr. Windley also distributed a handout "A New Online Address for Utah Government: utah.gov" and explained the importance of the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and top-level domains and, as outlined in the handout, proposed that utah.gov be the government's domain instead of state.ut.us as it is currently.

5. What Role Will Information Technology Play in Utah's Post-Olympic Economy?

Ms. Karen Suzuki-Okabe, Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM), gave a slide presentation "State of Utah - Post 2002 Olympics: Future Staff Needs for Information Technology" and distributed copies to commission members. She expressed future staff needs for information technology (IT).

Ms. Okabe also distributed a handout "State/Counties Merit/Cola Percent Increases (Local Comparative Data)" and discussed its contents.

Mr. Brent Cleverly, DHRM, said IT workers are very loyal to keeping their skills up and seem to be more loyal to their profession rather than their company. Therefore, it is imperative that companies provide a way for IT employees to continue development of their skills on the job.

MOTION: Mr. Hood moved that staff draft a letter of appreciation to the DHRM and send a copy to the governor. The motion passed unanimously, with Dr. Windley absent for the vote.

Dr. Thayne Robson, Director - Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Utah, distributed a handout "Commission on Information Technology by R. Thayne Robson" and discussed the American economy. He said the information technology business is capable of a recession and Utah's economy is currently in a recession, as is the whole of the manufacturing industry of the American economy – much of the Midwest and the South.

Dr. Robson said most of the new information technology firms that were started in Utah in the 1990's have been acquired by larger firms from outside the state and their headquarters have been moved out of Utah – resulting in major downsizing within the industry. He speculated the possibility of improvement in the information technology industry would take at least two years.

6. The Downside of Technology: How Will States Regulate Entities Not Located Within Their Borders But Conducting Business In The State?

Mr. Hood spoke about businesses regulated by state government that compete with out-of-state business via technology. He discussed the issue of having a license to do business in Utah, and specifically spoke of pharmaceutical interstate sales.

Dr. Dale Loveridge, Orchard Drug, expressed concern that local pharmacists have a different set of rules and regulations imposed by insurance companies than mail-order pharmaceutical companies. He noted that mail-order pharmaceutical companies are allowed to issue a 90-day supply of medication rather than the 30-day supply that local pharmacies are limited to. He also said that these companies are given the liberty to substitute medications without contacting the physician. He urged the commission to consider a study to allow local pharmacies the same opportunities as mail-order companies.

Mr. Hood asked the question, "What, if anything, should the state do to eliminate unintended regulatory practices which tend to disadvantage in-state businesses in favor of their out-of-state competitors?" The question remained unanswered.

7. Commission Business

The committee scheduled future Information Technology Commission meetings on Wednesdays – May 30, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 19, October 31, and November 21, 2001 at 1:00 in room 403.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously, with Dr. Windley absent for the vote.

