

**MINUTES OF THE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

Wednesday, June 27, 2001 – 1:00 p.m. – Room 403 State Capitol

Members Present:

Rep. Richard M. Siddoway, Chair
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Rep. Paul Ray
Mr. Daniel J. Becker
Mr. Peter R. Genereaux
Ms. Nancy CW Gibbs
Mr. Robert W. Hood
Commissioner Stephen F. Mecham
Mr. Leon Miller
Mr. Jerold G. Oldroyd
Dr. Phillip Windley
Dr. Gary S. Wixom

Members Excused:

Sen. David H. Steele, Chair
Sen. Karen Hale
Mr. Ronald L. Fox
Mr. Cameron V. Francis
Dr. Bonnie Morgan
Mr. Robert H. Rees,
Associate General Counsel

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North,
Research Analyst
Ms. Junie G. Anderson,
Legislative Secretary

Members Absent:

Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow
Mr. Garth Howard
Mr. David A. Packer

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 Siddoway called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. He introduced Dr. Gary Wixom who is replacing Dr. Mike Petersen.

MOTION: Ms. Gibbs moved to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2001 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Becker absent for the vote.

2. What Program/s is Utah Developing to Combat Pornography?

Ms. Paula Houston, Pornography Ombudsman, Utah Attorney General's Office, gave a slide presentation "Obscenity and Pornography Complaints Ombudsman." She distributed copies of the presentation for discussion.

Chair Siddoway offered the assistance of the Information Technology Commission for any legislation that Ms. Houston would like to propose for the 2002 General Session.

Mr. John Harrington, Intelligent Connections, suggested that commission members personally examine how easy it is for anyone, any age, to access inappropriate material on the Internet. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Houston for her efforts.

3. What is the Mission of & Role of the Utah Electronic Network (UEN)?

Dr. Steve Hess, Director, UEN, gave a brief history of the UEN. He gave a slide presentation and distributed copies. He also distributed a report "Annual Report FY1999 – Utah Education Network" for discussion.

Dr. George Brown, UEN, discussed the legislative provisions in the UEN, the "data backbone" in 2000, and UEN's Internet utilization. The issues were included in the presentation.

Dr. Mike Petersen, UEN, spoke about the Pioneer Online Library as shown in the presentation also.

Mr. Dane Goodfellow, CeriStar, distributed a handout "Education Technology for UTAH's Continued Economic Vitality" and discussed it.

Dr. David Eisler, Weber State University (WSU), spoke about online learning and said that WSU is dependent upon UEN for Internet access. He expressed appreciation for the leadership and the support that UEN supplies to students of all ages. He encouraged UEN to try new methods of technology.

Ms. Pat Lambrose, Salt Lake County School District (SLCSD), expressed appreciation for UEN, especially the Pioneer Online Library and its invaluable resources for her as a teacher. She recommended that more funding be applied to that area of resources.

Dr. Sterling Fuhrman, Salt Lake County School District, said the SLCSD is preparing to implement "power school" as a new online grade book and attendance system at the governor's request. He explained that the network has outgrown the smaller schools and often goes down, causing problems for the school districts. He noted that UEN has been supportive in providing help as far as it could, however, it was a poor design and he expressed concern about the stability of the current links and the size of the "pipes" that are in place.

Dr. Dale Roberts, Granite School District, said not all districts have the same needs for UEN services. He explained that when schools have problems, district staff should provide resolution without having to go through UEN, although UEN should be consulted to coordinate the districts' plans.

Mr. Glen Taylor, Utah Rural Schools Association, distributed and discussed handouts "Major Rural Summit Recommendations" and "UEN must be accountable to the state holders." He explained that one of the major recommendations was to form a task force to review the operation and management of UEN and to take action as needed to make the organization accountable to the needs of state holders.

Dr. Wayne Peay, University of Utah, expressed appreciation for UEN. He distributed a chart "EBSCO Databases - Usage Report, July 2000 - June 2001" and discussed the data.

Dr. Dick Lemon, Davis School District, said UEN has provided an invaluable network tool for the school district but, as a result of the Fusion plan, the network has not been as reliable as it was when there was direct access with UEN, and there is currently a need for more bandwidth. He specified that UEN should be more aggressive when it comes to E-rate participation and funding issues. He also expressed concerns about the turnover at UEN.

Dr. Jim Stewart, UEN, responded to a concern of Mr. Hood's that UEN is responsible for the router in the elementary schools. He commented that Mr. Hood's questions caused him to realize that a policy should be in place which defines the responsibilities of the UEN.

Dr. Hess said the Fusion architecture was originally intended to fuse the EDNET interactive video system to the data system (Utah Link) but the result caused the districts to be bypassed. He assured the committee that UEN will work to resolve the problems that the districts are facing. He also explained how UEN works with Information Technology Services (ITS) to avoid duplicate circuits and running similar networks so they can function together in the future. He noted that UEN is also developing a workable network with UCAN.

4. Commission Business

Commission members rescheduled the next meeting of the Information Technology Commission to July 19, 2001.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Gibbs moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Becker absent for the vote.

