MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

August 22, 2006
University of New Mexico (UNM)
Information Technology Services/High Performance Computing Center
1601 Central Ave. NE
Albuquerque

The third meeting of the Information Technology Oversight Committee (ITOC) for the 2006 interim was called to order by Senator John Arthur Smith, chair, on Tuesday, August 22, 2006, at 9:16 a.m. at the UNM High Performance Computing Center in Albuquerque.

Present
Sen. John Arthur Smith, Chair
Rep. Janice E. Arnold-Jones
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. Thomas C. Taylor
Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela

Absent
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella, Vice Chair
Sen. Vernon D. Asbill
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Sen. William H. Payne

Advisory Members
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Hector H. Balderas
Rep. Ted Hobbs
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace
Rep. Richard D. Vigil
Sen. Mark Boitano
Sen. Pete Campos
Rep. Richard P. Cheney
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Rep. Justine Fox-Young
Sen. Phil A. Griego

Staff
Raúl E. Burciaga
Ralph Vincent
Cristina Martinez

Guests
The guest list is in the meeting file.

Copies of all handouts and written testimony are in the meeting file.

Tuesday, August 22

Welcome

William L. Adkins, UNM chief information officer (CIO), welcomed the committee to UNM and the High Performance Computing Center.

Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC) Geographic Information System (GIS)

Michael Inglis and Carl Benedict provided an overview and demonstration of the New Mexico Resource Geographic Information System (RGIS - found at http://rgis.unm.edu). RGIS is a cooperative program between UNM and the Information Technology Commission (ITC) and is dedicated to advancing applications of GIS technology within the state's agencies, local governments and private industry. RGIS provides clearinghouse services, database development, technical support and training, geographic information coordination and project support for state agencies and local governments. The demonstration also included a review of the Department of Game and Fish's PLUS Management Information System (http://amis.unm.edu). The web site provides an interactive map of the state that allows the user to select various criteria to create a map that overlays the selected criteria.

On general questioning and comments from the committee, the following issues were discussed:

- the "distributed" data system relates to key words and has open standards and specifications;
- applications may vary slightly between owner and user;
- the programs do not centralize the data but allow custodians of the data to share information and merge it with other data;
- application and use of the data depends on available and current data;
- internal needs of a given user are not necessarily known to other users; thus, a "distributed" model is created;
- availability of a current snapshot of data provides better development of data and subsequently better information and analysis;
- the Governor's Office of Homeland Security has requested some flood plain mapping;
- the Federal Emergency Management Administration has requested information;
- there is a need for a statewide GIS coordinator plus staff and oversight responsibilities;
- EDAC has the longest tenure in GIS activities but other universities have programs and applications in place, as do other private sector entities;
- EDAC has worked with the Department of Public Safety and some of the data acquisition has been fairly sophisticated;
- there are still some software and hardware incompatibility issues with different users;
- some local government information can be coordinated without a local government request;
- funding for some applications is provided by the state, the state engineer, federal agencies and federal matching funds;
- state funding is generally for recurring operational expenses; and
- some counties are delayed in having or providing up-to-date information.

Strategic Directions for IT and Higher Education

Bob Tacker, director of the Information Services Department at New Mexico Tech, began the presentation by discussing the coordinated efforts of the Higher Education Department (HED) and the various universities to develop strategic directions for IT in support of education.

Veronica Chavez-Neuman, HED CIO, presented four major strategies and discussed some of the goals within each of the following strategies:

1. increase student access and success;
2. innovate to meet current and future educational needs efficiently and effectively;
3. provide programs and services integral to state and regional economic needs; and
4. position New Mexico higher education to be ranked in the upper echelon by improving national rankings.

Additionally, emphasis during 2006 and 2007 will be on public safety, cybersecurity, consolidated projects and early involvement in project proposals.

Max Baca, director of Information Technology Services at New Mexico Highlands University and president-elect of CHECS Education Technology Consortium, discussed efforts to align IT strategies among the state's research and regional universities and the Public Education Department (PED) as part of a five-year plan. Efforts will include coordinating resources through universities and state agencies, sharing and leveraging funding, sharing connectivity enhancements, negotiating with vendors for shared infrastructure and building strategies for technology in direct support of student success.

John Martinez, director of the Communications Division of the General Services Department (GSD), discussed efforts to develop a single, statewide telecommunications infrastructure.

Moira Gerety, director of Information Technology Services at UNM, discussed the National LambdaRail (NLR) project, a "very, very, very fast network" that may support libraries, public schools, local governments, hospitals, national laboratories, research universities, research partners, regional colleges and other partners through Wire New Mexico.

Brian Ormand, director of ICT Strategic Relations for New Mexico State University (NMSU), discussed the Learning Management System (LMS) and its statewide implementation. The LMS is a web-based software system that organizes and provides access to online learning services for students, teachers and administrators. Web-based applications and programs by individual schools, universities and state agencies would be uneven and uncoordinated; a multiinstitutional approach allows for sharing of enhancements, funding, licensing and other components.

On general questioning and comments from the committee, the following issues were discussed:

- numerous uses are being proposed by the judicial branch, state agencies, universities, telemedicine advocates and others;
- efforts aim to develop and maintain the "latest, newest and greatest" applications and programs;
- each entity will have a network operations center, for example, the GSD would be responsible for executive branch access and use;

- NLR costs are paid through affiliate fees, i.e., pay-to-play;
- NLR has a structured tier billing system depending on capacity and bandwidth;
- various telecommunications companies laid the fiber for the NLR;
- there is a recognition that the state's public education curriculum in math and science is lacking and efforts are needed, particularly in rural areas, to enhance those programs;
- a collaborative effort between NMSU and the Gadsden School District has resulted in some improvements in math and science;
- an appropriations request may be submitted to fund a pilot project for a rural education initiative;
- funding of IT in the education budget will require a close examination of the different needs between rural and urban schools because of available infrastructure;
- the evolving nature of the telecommunications network looks to become a general infrastructure owned by the state; and
- other states' models are similar to New Mexico's in that different partners pay to participate and the network includes redundancy and diverse routes to accommodate traffic and interruptions.

IT Commission (ITC) — Update

Carroll Cagle, chair of the IT Commission, advised the committee of the ITC's consolidation efforts and how it has been focused on enterprise strategy, frugality, cybersecurity and public safety. Mr. Cagle also mentioned that he had been re-elected as the ITC chair.

On general questioning and comments from the committee, the following issues were discussed:

- cybersecurity is an important component to maintain as a priority for the ITC;
- efforts have been improved to ensure that major IT initiatives are appropriately vetted through the ITC and its subcommittees; and
- it is advisable and important to include the ITOC as part of the oversight and evaluation process for major IT initiatives.

Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) — Update

Roy Soto, state CIO, reviewed various issues relating to the OCIO and the ITC. The Human Services Department is developing a system to accommodate a federally required national provider identifier for health care providers and insurers. The Scientific Laboratory Division of the Department of Health is replacing its data systems with a single Laboratory Information Management System. Mr. Soto provided a summary of projects certified for continuing development. He reviewed the new GSD Information Systems Division rates for IT services, which were aligned with the rate study conducted in November 2005. Ninety-four initial agency business cases were submitted for a funding request of almost $180 million, most of which would come from the general fund and about $8 million from federal funds. Mr. Soto also discussed the results of the GIS summit, the various interim committees before which he or his office has testified and the project management certification of two of the OCIO staff, Clancy Roberts and Anna Sandoval-Vigil. Mr. Soto also mentioned that states are still awaiting IT specifications to the federal Real ID Act, another unfunded federal mandate.

Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) — Update

Aurora Sanchez, LFC performance auditor, discussed the IT requests that had been received. The LFC reviews them for enterprise-wide impact, project management, business approach and outcomes, criteria that has been used since 1996. For the 2006 fiscal year, only five requests were recommended. Agencies are aware of the evaluation and criteria. The Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS) had been audited and the PED was receptive to recommendations made by the LFC. Ms. Sanchez indicated that there were some problems with the Statewide Human Resources and Management Reporting (SHARE) System implementation and recommendations were being made, particularly with respect to training, because of the significant impact that SHARE has on agencies and operations. The LFC performance audit work plan includes proposals to review IT consolidation, security and email.

On general questioning and comments from the committee, the following issues were discussed:

- the impact of SHARE on the Office of the State Treasurer;
- the status of the "positive pay" edits in SHARE; and
- the involvement of the state auditor in the development and implementation of SHARE.

Public Education Department — Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System — Chart of Accounts

Robert Piro, PED CIO, provided an overview of the STARS program. The presentation included a live web view of the database and search criteria used for reporting information. Mr. Piro discussed the student identification system, licensure upgrade, transportation, IT consolidation, MATH initiative, the accountability and reporting environment and the data warehouse project approach. The STARS project time line indicates that the pilot project was completed in early 2006, a statewide rollout is in process for fall 2006 and the district reporting, school/classroom interface and teacher/parent interface should be ready between 2007 and 2008.

High Performance Computing

Tim Thomas, deputy director for the Center for High Performance Computing, briefly discussed the variety of applications using high performance computers and how the center has become a statewide resource for high performance computing.

Maria P. Williams, assistant professor, Native American Studies at UNM, discussed a program for engaging Native American students in computer science. The program is a collaborative partnership that includes UNM's Native American Program School of Engineering, Boston University, Walatowa Charter School at the Pueblo of Jemez, UNM's Native American Studies program and the Center for High Performance Computing. The program is a two-year pilot project to develop an advanced curriculum with Native American computer science students using art and culturally relevant studies. Ms. Williams' presentation included class details and costs associated with the project.

Professor H. Guo, UNM Department of Chemistry, discussed the study of computational chemistry, a discipline based on quantum mechanics, using high performance computers to understand and predict molecular properties and reactivity. The area requires knowledge of chemistry, physics, math and computer science, and it is beginning to have increasing employment opportunities in academia and the pharmaceutical industry.

Arts, Research, Technology and Science (ARTS) Lab

Senator Smith asked the presenters for the ARTS Lab demonstration to defer their presentation until the next meeting, September 20, so that more committee members could attend. Numerous committee members left early because of a prior legislative commitment.

Adjournment

Senator Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.