

**MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**August 26, 2008
New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico**

The third meeting of the Information Technology and Telecommunications Oversight Committee (ITTOC) was called to order by Senator Richard C. Martinez, chair, on August 26, 2008 at 10:15 a.m. at New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Present

Sen. Richard C. Martinez, Chair
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella, Vice Chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Don L. Tripp (Video Conference
from Socorro)
Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela
Rep. Peter Wirth

Absent

Rep. Janice E. Arnold-Jones
Sen. Vernon D. Asbill
Sen. Howie C. Morales
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Sen. John Arthur Smith
Rep. Richard D. Vigil

Advisory Members

Rep. Kathy A. McCoy
Sen. William H. Payne
Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace

Sen. Mark Boitano
Sen. Pete Campos
Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Sen. Kent L. Cravens
Sen. Phil A. Griego
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino

Staff

Ralph Vincent, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Doug Williams, LCS

Guest

Rep. Thomas A. Anderson

The guest list is in the meeting file.

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

Tuesday, August 26

The minutes of the July 21, 2008 meeting were approved.

President James Fries of New Mexico Highlands University welcomed the committee.

IDEAL-NM — Higher Education / Public Education IT Initiative

—Veronica Chavez Neuman, CIO, Higher Education Department

—Dr. Tim Snyder, Executive Director of the IDEAL-NM Program

Ms. Neuman and Dr. Snyder made a presentation concerning the Innovative Digital Education and Learning Project and its goals and features. The project:

- reduces geographic and capacity barriers;
- expands our offerings to address the opportunity gap in smaller districts: dual credit languages, math, science, technology and career tech, financial literacy, A test prep, etc.;
- resolves conflicts in student schedules;
- provides enrichment, credit-recovery, summer school, online tutoring, alternative high school completion and home-bound options;
- keeps per-student, per-class costs below average SEA rates;
- increases access to highly qualified teachers;
- reduces teacher-pupil ratio;
- aids districts with teacher resources and teacher employment;
- expands educational opportunities, closes achievement gaps, supports college and career goals, increases educational attainment and prepares students for college, work force and global competition;
- reduces the cost of technology access to P42 schools, colleges and universities and state agencies;
- increases technology skills of youth and adult learners; and
- reduces the travel and personnel costs of state agency trainings and P-12 teacher professional development via online courses.

The continued build-out of IDEAL-NM courses for grades 6 through 12, agency training and teacher professional development is dependent upon operational funding, including full-time equivalent positions for student services, business services, help desk technicians, course development and design and web portal development.

Regional education cooperatives can fulfill a strong role with member districts in facilitating distance learning courses. This role needs discussion and possible state support.

Continued maintenance fees and migration to state-hosted environment within three years is dependent upon state planning and capital funding.

Representative Varela noted that a distance learning initiative began in 1989 and it has come a long way; however, there is a lot more work to do. He also asked about student-teacher ratios and whether these ratios are actually declining as promised.

Representative Wirth asked about IDEAL privacy and confidentiality provisions. Ms. Neuman responded that IDEAL has a secure log-in environment aimed at identity management.

Senator Martinez asked about availability of adult basic education (ABE). Ms. Neuman stated that ABE is currently being developed.

Representative Tripp asked if courses are available to home-schooled students. Dr. Snyder stated that courses are available either through a local school district or directly from IDEAL. Representative Tripp also asked if there is a fee. Dr. Snyder responded that the fee for a single course for a home-schooled student is \$250; however, if a student enrolls in three or more courses, the student becomes eligible for public funding and there is no cost.

IT Infrastructure Related to Distance Learning and Statewide Cyber Academy

—Moirá Gerety, Director, Computing Services, UNM

—Veronica Chavez Neuman, CIO, Higher Education Department

Ms. Neuman and Ms. Gerety presented the current state of technology as it relates to higher education distance learning.

Representative Varela noted that the legislature is seeking to create a technology replacement fund and associated fee schedule. He suggested that the committee sponsor legislation jointly with the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC).

Representative McCoy asked for a list of tasks that needs to be accomplished in order to implement IDEAL. Ms. Gerety responded that the first thing that needs to happen is for programmatic issues to be resolved before infrastructure is addressed. Representative McCoy asked about identity management. Ms. Gerety responded that it is important to prevent students from seeing other people's grades or special needs as well as for universities to be able to share background information about students such that a student's qualifications and enrollment status can be verified.

Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative

—Richard Lowenburg, First Mile Institute

Mr. Lowenburg made a presentation outlining a proposal to deploy integrated broadband service throughout New Mexico. The proposed New Mexico Integrated Strategic Broadband Initiative would coordinate a number of critical tasks.

- It would coordinate existing and pending network deployments.
- It would address technical, economic, security and strategic decision-making in a more coordinated and inclusive way.
- It would help to substantiate planning, investment, cost-savings and ultimate economic benefits for statewide broadband improvements.
- It would strategically coordinate and leverage support for separate state networking initiatives, which would otherwise be unproductively competing for limited state funds.
- It would offer a guiding, comprehensive, dynamic vision for New Mexico's networked broadband future.

With support from the Governor's Office, state agencies and the legislature, this initiative should be undertaken with inclusive, multisector, state and local representation to provide the foundation for advocacy, research and education, partnership development, policymaking, economic investment, seed funding, pilot projects, leadership training and constituency building.

This initiative can help to more fully realize state programs for economic development, job creation, lifelong education, health care, supercomputing applications, film and media production, telework, energy conservation and rural community revitalization, while shining a spotlight on New Mexico as a much-needed example for national broadband policies and strategies.

For this proposed initiative to be successful, time is of the essence. Partnership negotiations, mapping and true-cost economic analysis and projections must begin immediately, particularly in preparation for upcoming LFC reviews and the next legislative session.

Representative Varela asked about First Mile Institute. Mr. Lowenburg responded that he is employed by a national planning firm and that First Mile Institute is a nonprofit that does economic planning. Mr. Lowenburg noted that the key to deploying broadband is an economic partnership among the companies that have proprietary infrastructure in place such that they come together and share their networks.

Representative Rodella suggested that the undertaking being proposed should be managed by the Department of Information Technology rather than First Mile Institute. Representative Rodella requested an update on the status of fiber optic infrastructure for the rural exchange carriers and Qwest.

Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS)

—Robert Piro, CIO, Public Education Department

Mr. Piro provided an update of the status of STARS deployment.

IT Infrastructure for Public Schools

—Andrew Rendon, Public Education Department
—Dr. Ken Cole, Director of Technology Client Services, Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)

Mr. Rendon and Dr. Cole provided an overview of information technology infrastructure among the 89 school districts.

Representative Varela asked about APS capability to replace technology. Dr. Cole responded that APS has identified \$26 million that may be used for technology purchases.

Senator Payne asked how he can assure his constituents that they will receive the necessary technology. Dr. Cole stated that APS strives to provide every school in the district with the same level of service. Much depends upon the age of the school and the capability of Qwest to provide the necessary infrastructure.

Telecommunications Infrastructure Issues Related to Education

—Max Baca, Director of Information Technology, New Mexico Highlands University

Mr. Baca made a presentation concerning the status of CHECS.

The committee adjourned at 4:00 p.m.