

IHETS Board of Directors
May 24, 2000
IHETS Conference Room
714 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Notes

Present: H. Ray Hoops, University of Southern Indiana, Chair; Steven C. Beering, Purdue University; Christopher Peebles for Myles Brand, Indiana University; Ray Ewick, Indiana State Library; John Grew, Governor's Office; William Kramer for Gerald Lamkin, Ivy Tech State College; Ellen Watson representing John W. Moore, Indiana State University, and Chair of IHETS Integrated Technologies Committee; T.K. Olson, Independent Colleges of Indiana; Suellen Reed, Indiana Department of Education; John E. Worthen, Ball State University; Lloyd Wright, Indiana's Public Broadcasting Stations; and David A. King, IHETS Executive Director.

Guests: Geoff DePriest, Department of Workforce Development; Scott Gillie, Indiana Career Placement and Assessment Center; Bernie Hannon and _____ Stickler, State Budget Agency; John Huie, Purdue University, Chair of IHETS Management Committee; Louis Jensen, Indiana State University, Chair of IPSE Working Group; Dennis Kramer, Ball State University; Robert Ruble, University of Southern Indiana; Philip Swain, Purdue University; and Tim Fisher, Susan Scott, and Ed Tully, IHETS staff.

Call to Order

Hoops called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and declared a quorum.

April 13 Minutes

Beering moved that the minutes of the April 13, 2000, meeting be approved as circulated; Olson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Appropriation Request Strategy

King reported that since discussion at the last Board of Directors meeting staff has provided more detailed information to the IHETS leadership committees and has consulted with leaders of key stakeholder communities about impact of the proposals on their constituencies. In each of the cases, leaders recognized advantages to them of having increased access and expanded capabilities for learning and collaboration. Watson added that the Integrated Technologies Committee struggled with issues of which directions are essential and how to reach balance, resulting in a technology package the committee believes is reasonable but also provides flexibility in a rapidly changing environment. Jensen stated the IPSE Working Group's agreement with the priorities, recognizing the need for technology infrastructure to be available to accomplish institutional and consortium learning and service goals. Huie identified the major impact of the Management Committee discussions as prioritizing the numbers brought forward from the ITC and Working Group.

King then reviewed each of the priority areas in turn, both for base-budget increases and for one-time funding. Regarding the third priority for base increase, Worthen noted that research and

development is an important step and that it would be helpful to involve member institutions in the testing. Peebles added that these applications are now being tested in the Internet 2 environment and IHETS should develop expertise in these areas. Regarding the sixth and last priority, Worthen reiterated his opposition to the program-development grants, stating that institutions, not IHETS, should find ways to help their faculty develop online materials. Hoops responded that this item was placed at the bottom of the list to acknowledge Ball State's concerns, but he added that there is considerable support for the project from other institutions. Huie noted that it has been a positive benefit for Purdue and others.

Stating that he was very pleased with the work done and pleased to support the resulting recommendation, Beering moved that the Board approve the recommended strategic direction for the 2001-03 biennium. Ewick seconded the motion, and Hoops asked for discussion.

Worthen expressed concern about a 33% increase in the first year of the biennium alone, not including one-time funds requested. Huie agreed that the percentage is large but added that, in dollars, the amount is a small portion of the higher education budget. Beering added that in presenting the request it will be important for Reed, Ewick, and others to help convey this as catalytic in stimulating the State's other investments in education. Speaking for Moore and Indiana State University, Watson expressed ISU's support along with the caution that we not over-define but take care to use language that will give us flexibility to make adjustments we may need a year from now. Worthen acknowledged that this iteration is easier to understand; in struggling with how to reduce the percentage increase, he would prefer to delay the portal elements. Peebles added the need to weigh the higher cost of developing high-quality distance learning courses against the bricks-and-mortar savings those courses can make possible.

King responded that both the higher education knowledge base and the State's infrastructure have immense public value and were achieved at public expense; we can't afford to wait, because at some point soon our taxpayers will ask why they have to go elsewhere for the educational access they need. Grew noted that as a possible conflict of interest he needed to abstain from voting and that though he recognizes the importance of enhancing educational opportunities for Hoosiers, he also knows funds will be tighter next year and a large increase will have a difficult time. Stating skepticism that the presumed demand actually exists, Worthen indicated that he still cannot support this proposal. Ewick stated strong support: there are hiring shortages in the state, but the current system does not meet the needs of those who cannot move to a campus; if we wait for another biennium, we may lose the opportunity to address critical needs. He also pointed out that IHETS is more than a utility, its mission is changing, and this proposal prepares for that.

Hoops called for a vote, and the motion carried with nine ayes, one abstention, and one nay.

There being no further business, Hoops adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.