

**Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System
Board of Directors
November 26, 2001
714 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana**

Meeting Notes

Present:

James Bottum for Martin Jischke, Purdue University
Blaine Brownell, Ball State University
Ray Ewick, Indiana State Library
H. Ray Hoops, University of Southern Indiana, Chair
Louis Jensen for Lloyd Benjamin, Indiana State University
David King, IHETS Executive Director
William Kramer for Gerald Lamkin, Ivy Tech State College
Anthony Maidenberg, Independent Colleges of Indiana
Michael McRobbie for Myles Brand, Indiana University
Lloyd Wright, Indiana's Public Broadcasting Stations

Guests: Wayne Bohm, University of Southern Indiana; Erwin Boschmann, Indiana University, Chair of Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education; Greg Fawcett, Independent Colleges of Indiana; H. O'Neal Smitherman, Ball State University; Philip Swain, Purdue University; Brian Voss, Indiana University; Tim Fisher, Susan Scott, and Ed Tully, IHETS staff.

Call to Order and Appointment of Nominating Committee

Following a luncheon in recognition of John Huie's outstanding service to IHETS as chair of the IHETS Management Committee, Chairman Hoops called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He asked Kramer, as incoming chair of the IHETS Management Committee, to form a nominating committee for a new chair for the IHETS Board of Directors, to be elected at the spring meeting. He also asked the Management Committee to bring back recommendations regarding the continuing need for a fall Board meeting.

Technology Progress Report

King reported that the Indiana Telecommunications Network, now operating for three years, is planning for a reconfiguration based on a single central hub rather than distributed nodes. He thanked Indiana University for its patience in carrying some debt while ITN reached cost recovery, noting that Intelenet has now repaid that debt in full. Still outstanding is the \$450,000 IHETS equipment reserve fund, which was "loaned" to Intelenet and will be repaid as revenue stabilizes, projected to start in mid-2002. He congratulated the Integrated Technology Committee for the work of its IP Video Task Force, whose extensive report will be published within a few days and will guide planning for an IP Video service for ITN users. Savings through a new contract with Qwest mean that IHETS will not need to increase SUVON fees after the first quarter 2002. King also referenced a letter he recently sent to various State officials in response to increased interest from the public health community for emergency communications and training.

Lifelong Learning Channel

King described the launch of a Joint Advisory Board which he and Wright co-chair and progress in identifying technical, programmatic, and fund-raising issues to support the new digital broadcast service focused on lifelong learning. Conversations with public broadcasting officials in Washington, DC, and other states indicate clearly that Indiana is much farther along than others both in planning and in the extent of partnership development between higher education and public broadcasting.

Indiana Learning Portal

King reported an encouraging preliminary discussion with Lilly Endowment staff regarding the portal project, which intends to bridge multiple existing services to strengthen the impact of all of them through significantly enhanced user access. There was some discussion clarifying the difference between this project and the portal initiatives of individual institutions, and King confirmed the intent to serve as a crossover point between institutional and organizational portals rather than to duplicate or replace any. The plan currently being discussed is for start-up funding of approximately \$350,000 to work through major developmental issues in conversation with potential funding agencies, leading to having a Request for Proposals ready to issue with an alliance of committed funders.

E-Learning Enrollment Increases

Scott reviewed the burgeoning development of institutions' course and degree offerings via technology and the consequent jumps in enrollment. For 2000-01, enrollments in such courses from IHETS members passed the 34,000 mark, representing a 64% increase over 1999-2000 enrollments (which had increased by 60% over the previous year). Though data for Fall 2001 are still incomplete, individual institutions are reporting further increases of 25% to 50% over the previous fall semester. One of the most significant trends is the growth in online enrollments, now at 72% of the total; enrollments via two-way video doubled, and enrollments via IHETS Television were down only 8% despite a one-third drop in channel capacity.

Learners report very high satisfaction levels (87% to 92% satisfied or very satisfied), and in large proportions (84% to 89%) cite the convenience and flexibility of adjusting to work and family schedules as the primary motivation for pursuing distributed learning (only 39% cite living too far away from campus). Regardless of how the data are extrapolated—translating to 3,360 FTE's or approximately 15,000 to 16,000 individual students or looking at approximate revenue generated of \$7.5 million—electronic learning is becoming a more notable portion of the state's overall postsecondary educational activity. The institutions' outreach in support of state goals for improving participation in higher education and supporting economic and workforce development goals is more extensive in the aggregate than most policymakers recognize.

Budget Strategy and Direction for 2002-03

King announced that staff will begin in January to plan the 2002-03 IHETS operating budget. Based on the state appropriation, IHETS will need to trim another \$101,000 over the similar cut reflected in this year's budget, and staff will seek advice from the Management Committee about where to look for further cuts and how best to mirror the directions of member institutions. Hoops added that following Indiana University's guidelines on salary issues has been beneficial in maintaining consistency.

Chairman Hoops adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.