

CMS

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF

Central Management Services

Illinois Century Network

Policy Committee Meeting Agenda

December 7, 2005
2:00 pm



**ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK
POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
December 7, 2005
2:00 p.m.**

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ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

JUNE 15, 2005 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Submitted for: Action

Summary: Distribution of the June 15, 2005 minutes for review by the Policy Committee.

Action Requested: Adoption of the June 15, 2005 minutes.

Recommended Motion: *The ICN Policy Committee adopts the June 15, 2005 minutes with any edits as noted.*

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

JUNE 15, 2005 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Pete Ashi called the meeting to order and asked Cindy Daniele to call roll.

Members present: Pete Ashi; Jay Carlson, Department of Central Management Services; Marianne Stanke; Anne Craig, Illinois State Library; Todd Jorns, Illinois Community College Board; Lynn Murphy, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Bruce McMillan, Illinois State Museum.

Lori indicated that there were 7 members present, enough to constitute a quorum.

Springfield guests: Kaldoun Rahmah, SBC; Carla Poani, SBC; Carolyn Brown Hodge, Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Tom Oseland, Central Management Services; Cindi Hitchcock, Central Management Services.

Chicago guests: Gary Wenger, College of DuPage; Beth O'Mahoney, Central Management Services.

Announcements and Remarks

Pete started his remarks by announcing his resignation. He has moved to Columbia, South Carolina and will no longer be able to serve as chair. He stated that he has enjoyed working on the committee the past year and it is impressive how much has been accomplished. He sees the ICN continuing to grow and the next chair will assist in taking the network to the next level. He commended Jay, Lori and the CMS team on the outstanding job they have done.

Jay thanked Pete for his service and commitment to the committee the past year. The ICN had the largest transformation in its history and appreciated the support from the committee. Jay also said he appreciated Pete's ability to rally support that was beyond our control. Pete stated that he did submit formal notice to the Governor's office, but has not heard a response.

Jay said that if it was appropriate he would like to have the committee nominate an acting chair until a formal chair is appointed by the Governor. Pete agreed with the suggestion and Lori asked for nominations.

Jay made a nomination for Lori to serve as acting chair because of her familiarity with the protocol, the process and the standing members. Jay indicated that this will be an acting role until the governor selects a new chair.

Motion: Jay Carlson moved; Marianne Stanke seconded the appointment of Lori Sorenson as acting chair of the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

Lori asked Jay if he would work with Paul Campbell to let the Governor's Office know of the Chair vacancy, as well as the members of the committee whose terms are expiring. Jay indicated that they have submitted a list before of the members, but will resurrect it and take it forth.

Minutes

Pete said he has had a chance to review the minutes from the last meeting and the only comment was on the effort to contact members of the committee who haven't attended in quite some time. He indicated that he was to call them, but didn't have a chance to do so.

Jay asked Lori about the Policy Committee member appointment process. Lori verified that when a person is appointed by the Governor that the individual serves their term unless they submit a resignation. Jay followed up by asking if the Board can present a recommendation to the Governor for those people who have been chronically tardy or absent that they need to be replaced. Lori replied that she thought it would be appropriate. She suggested that the group may want to consider in FY06 introducing some changes to the ICN legislation. The legislation creating the Policy Committee was from FY00 when the ICN was its own entity. Now that the ICN is part of Central Management Services, changes may need to be made to that structure.

Jay asked Pete if this was what he was thinking. Pete agreed that changing the structure of the committee should occur while it is still early in the transition.

Bruce asked for clarification on whether they were discussing the appointed members or statutory members or both. Lori replied that they were talking about the appointed members. The statutory members (IBHE, ISBE, etc) are named by agency not individual and can send anyone to represent the agency. However, appointed members hold the membership personally and thus can not be represented by another individual. The issue of not having enough members in attendance to constitute a quorum has occurred several times in the past few years. Lori also indicated the need to look at whether the entire constituency is represented.

Pete asked if there were any changes to the minutes. There were none.

Motion: Pete Ashi moved; Bruce McMillan seconded, that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Budget Report

Lori asked Cindi Hitchcock, the Budget/Fiscal Officer for the ICN, to give an update on the FY05 budget and FY06 appropriation.

Cindi began by bringing attention to the E-rate reimbursement. This fiscal year total is \$5.3 million and is approximately \$2.7 million over the figure presented at the last meeting. Tom has been following up on funding for previous year applications which are included in that figure.

Fiscal Year 05 is the first fiscal year that funds have been received from USAC through the Rural Health Care Division. Those numbers are included in the cost recovery figures and not on the E-rate line. Constituents are billed a discounted rate and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is billed the additional amount. The ICN then receives the money directly from USAC. The cost recovery line right now is almost at \$2 million dollars and constituents have a great payment record. Receivables are at only \$500,000 and Kim Fitzgerald does a great job tracking and keeping customers current.

Approximately \$10 million dollars in telecommunication equipment has been financed for the Hercules Telecommunications Project in FY05. CMS redesigned the network to move from best effort to carrier-grade class and one payment of \$541,000 toward the financing will be made in FY05 with the remaining made in subsequent fiscal years. Due to these upgrades, the budget will be over the appropriation with the difference paid by the Communications Revolving Fund which is used to collect user fees from the state agency customers. At this point it looks like that will amount to between \$7 and \$8 million dollars.

Cindi continued by stating the ICN will be audited starting next week under the Board of Higher Education. The compliance audit starts with the ICN and auditors will be at the office looking through human resources files, the accounts receivables, and the equipment. No problems are anticipated with the audit. The FY06 appropriation was \$19 million with close to \$400,000 in reserve.

Cindi asked if there were any questions. There were none.

E-rate Update

Lori introduced Tom Oseland the ICN's primary lead on handling E-rate.

Tom began by stating that year-to-date over \$5.3 million has been collected. These monies have come mainly from Year 6 and partially Year 5 applications. There has been some success with follow-up on outstanding requests for funding, as well as the Year 6 application submitted by Joel Vinson last year.

Recently there have been some adverse decisions made by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of USAC concerning Years 7 and 8 applications. As discussed in June, the decision made by USAC to invalidate the letter of agency (LOA) used by the ICN carried forward into a denial of funding on the Year 7 application. This notice was received in February. In April the decision was made to appeal the LOA decision. The appeal was finalized last week and submitted for the Year 7 application. As it relates to the Year 8 application, the LOA was submitted to cover both funding years. If they do not change their decision involving the LOA, it could adversely affect Year 8 as well. A lot has been done to support this appeal effort and credit needs to be given to Ricardo Tostado who is now with SBC (formerly the Illinois State Board of Education Statewide E-rate Coordinator) and Joel Vinson for their help and support in compiling the appeal. A very significant effort was made by Ricardo to gain support from Senators Durbin and Obama and also Representative Hastert's office.

Tom stated that other projects with the E-rate program going forward include documenting constituents' compliance with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) as it relates to the Year 9 and 10 future applications.

Lori asked what kind of support was received from the legislators regarding the appeal. Tom stated that he knew Senator Durbin's office had made a call, but he had not been able to reach Ricardo to find out more. Lori followed up by asking if the information on the appeal was presented to their staffs. Tom confirmed that it was and feedback from them was positive. Going forward he thinks they will be very supportive of the effort behind this appeal.

Lori stated that the amount on appeal represents over \$12 million dollars for those two years. When the ICN was on its own operating just from the appropriation, E-rate funding could have a significant impact on the operation. Fortunately the CMS budget is much larger and has the ability to withstand the funding delay. E-rate money is typically used to purchase hardware and for the recapitalization of backbone equipment. Recently the ICN completed a \$15 million upgrade of the backbone and that spending was mostly on hardware. Due to the upgrade, the core POP sites are covered for the next three years, so the impact of the funding delay will be minimized. The loss of the money does hurt the ability to roll out new services and replace distribution equipment. The appeal will continue to be pursued.

AET- Recommendations

Lori introduced Gary Wenger, Chair of the Advanced Engineering Taskforce. Traditionally at the June meeting the Taskforce presents an overview of what they have accomplished the past fiscal year and also gives a preview of the annual report.

Gary thanked the Policy Committee for allowing constituency groups to directly provide input into the planning and operation of the ICN and also recognized the AET members who contributed their time during the last year. He wanted to especially thank the ICN staff for their collaboration and openness at the meetings.

In the last year, one of the items the AET focused on was accomplishments. Many times when people look at a data line connection to the Internet, they see just a data line, but it's a lot more than that. There's a lot more value to the ICN than just a data line. One of the major accomplishments this year was to put together a benefits document that identifies the true benefits and value of the ICN. This exercise really made people think about the total value package offered by the ICN. There are a number of other initiatives related to anti-virus and anti-spam pricing that will continue to add more value to what the ICN offers.

Many challenges remain moving forward. The ICN needs to continue to maintain a reliable network not just at the headquarters, but also at each of the nodes and sites attached to the network. Problems at these remote sites can have an impact on the entire network performance.

There are some common themes that are running through these recommendations. The ICN needs to continue to meet the expanding needs of the user community. The K-12 sites will need

more and more bandwidth and right now the allocation is pretty low at those sites. With more advanced applications available, they're going to need additional bandwidth to continue to grow.

The final challenge is to continue to use the constituent driven model to provide input into the cost recovery process. The ICN also needs to plan for the future and maintain an appropriate funding level. The funding model needs to fit into the budgets of various constituents as well as take into consideration the competition offered by other service providers.

Gary continued by referencing the list of recommendations in the report.

The first recommendation concerns strategic planning. The whole idea of strategic planning is defining the mission and vision. The ICN was conceived several years ago and maybe the mission and vision has changed. It is important on a regular basis to go through and review what the mission and vision are to make sure the ICN is headed in the right direction. One of the recommendations of the AET is to review the mission and vision and then develop a strategic plan that sets out a five year view of the future. This will include where the ICN is going and provide a focus for the organization. Constituents will also know where the ICN is heading and if it will meet their needs.

The second recommendation is for the ICN to define the product life cycle. The ICN has a cycle for replacing its own equipment, but many constituents do not. Equipment that is 6 or 7 years old can affect the network operation. The ICN should develop a technology replacement strategy for constituents to improve overall network performance.

The third recommendation concerns network security. Network security will continue to be a problem and it will only get worse. The ICN needs to have tools in place to make sure that the network runs smoothly. Over the last year the ICN has begun offering antivirus and soon antispam products, but these are just a few of the many opportunities. Other areas to pursue are intrusion prevention systems, patch management, and firewall services. The ICN needs to continue to research new products and offer these to constituents. In many cases the ICN can procure them more cheaply than individual constituents.

The fourth recommendation deals with content providers. This is already taking place, but the ICN needs to continue to look at their constituents to see if co-location of content can be provided to ease the cost of allowing others to utilize the content.

The fifth recommendation is about the cost recovery model. This is to assure that the ICN continues to provide high quality services and support while maintaining the cost recovery model. Additional bandwidth should continue to be provided to constituents at a competitive price.

The sixth recommendation concerns wireless technologies. Wireless will greatly impact how services are delivered. Wireless use will continue to expand with broadband wireless in the cellular area, 802.11 on campuses, and VSAT. The ICN needs to continue to look at wireless in terms of last mile connections and how it can impact all of the operation.

One of the keys to success is utilizing best practices. The great thing that takes place at the AET meetings are the discussions among the constituents about what's going on in their organizations, what they are using and what they are doing. A lot of great ideas come out of these discussions and many times Lori and her staff will take those ideas and investigate further whether they can be deployed as a service or not. There is huge value in that collaboration process.

The seventh recommendation was discussed quite a bit and that was statewide contracts. Most members of the group found these contracts very difficult to use. State contracts are available for software, hardware and more, but it is difficult to find out what contracts exist and how to use them. The recommendation is to develop a system that would provide easier access, so that everybody in the state can benefit from the contracts.

The next recommendation in the report concerns E-rate. The ICN needs to continue to do whatever it takes to help clients submit their information in order to obtain the additional E-rate funds from the federal government.

The other area of concern is the network convergence taking place on the voice, video, and data side. In the report, there is discussion of VoIP and the impact it may have on the network. It will create additional traffic on the network, but also offer cost savings over standard phone lines. Video will continue to grow, so it needs to be addressed as well. Video was once thought of as a last support area and not high a priority. If constituents want to use this technology, it needs to be prioritized and provided the same level of support as regular network services. The ICN needs to continue to investigate new technologies such as VoIP and others to determine if they can benefit constituents. Gary concluded by asking if there were any questions.

The final copy of the report should be completed by the end of June with distribution on the ICN web site and to the Policy Committee soon after. An email notification will be sent to constituents to make them aware that it is available. ICN staff will review the document to place priorities and see if the recommendations can be incorporated into internal planning.

Pete stated it was a good summary. Bruce McMillan asked whether the report will address the scope of the discussions by the committee on content providers. He is interested in knowing just what discussions have taken place. Gary said that they will be clarified.

Lori added that a lot of what was discussed focused on museums. Many of the cultural institutions in Illinois have developed curriculum that they make available free to schools. The institution has to host that content and it causes a drain on their last mile connectivity with everybody trying to access that information. The thought is to provide a service where the ICN provides co-location space. Since these constituents are providing desirable content to ICN constituents and providing that service for free, co-location space should be made available to them at no cost. This would remove obstacles from both creating content and making it available. One of the constituents who contacted the ICN as a result of conversations at the AET meetings was the Brookfield Zoo. They have some materials that they think qualify as content and the ICN is working with them to come up with a strategy for moving that content to a POP site. The ICN is also working with them to market and distribute information on the content to schools, libraries and other constituents.

Bruce indicated he would like to get a better idea of what was happening with content at the cultural institutions. Lori replied that specific information would not be included in the report. The subject of content has been discussed at length at the AET meetings. The ICN has wanted to partner, but has had difficulty finding content providers who have suitable material and are willing to partner. In two years, Brookfield Zoo was the first one that stepped up. A lot of that came from the efforts of Bill Barnett who represented the Field Museum on the AET. He informed the other museums of this opportunity and encouraged someone serve as a pilot. Many constituents want to know what the rules and qualifications are for doing this and at this point there are none because there have been no real situations. Brookfield Zoo will serve as a pilot to develop a model. This model will be promoted on the ICN web site and will let constituents understand what the ICN means by a content provider.

AET Membership Appointments

Lori introduced the next item on the agenda which is AET membership. This is the time of year when the current membership is reviewed for term expirations. The Policy Committee appoints members to the Taskforce for one, two or three year staggered terms. Last year provisions were put in place requiring members to participate in at least two meetings each year. This was to ensure that all constituency groups were being represented adequately. There were some individuals over the course of this last year who have been unable to meet that commitment and as a result the recommendation is for their appointment to be terminated and a replacement sought. Those individuals are: Jim Dispensa, Chicago Public Schools; Abe Loveless, Illinois State Board of Education – Learning Technology Center 5; Joel Mambretti, Northwestern University; Erich Schroeder, Illinois State Museum; and Linda Winkler, Argonne Labs. The individuals could be reappointed to the committee at a later date if they show a willingness to serve.

Two members resigned from the committee this past year due to retirement or changes in positions. Keith Mann with Township High School District 214, a large district in the Chicago suburbs, retired. Brad Sutton with Aurora University changed positions within the university and is no longer involved with technology.

There are three members whose terms expire this year. These individuals have participated on a regular basis and have indicated their interest to serve another term: Todd Cooper, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network; Charles Kline, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign; and Alan Pfeifer, Sauk Valley Community College

A handout was provided with an updated membership matrix with several nominations and recommendations for additions to the committee: Jim Peterson, Bloomington Public Schools; Greg DeYoung, Eastern Illinois University; Karim Adib, Chicago Public Library; Robert Dulski with Brookfield Zoo.

Lori noted that while not included in the item, Bill Barnett with the Field Museum also has resigned. He accepted a position out of state and is leaving the Field Museum. He put forth recommendations for Robert Dulski with Brookfield Zoo and Cheryl Obermeyer with the

Chicago Historical Society. There is also a recommendation for Ellen Barry with McCormick Place and Faye Sinnott with the State Board of Education – Learning Technology Center 1. Lori asked for comments or questions on any the individuals.

Bruce indicated that he would like to talk to Bill about the nominations before voting. He asked if the vote to appoint the nominees would be made today. Lori said that it was up to the committee. The item could be tabled until the next meeting.

Bruce continued by stating that in the past it has been up to the Policy Committee to make the recommendations, not the Taskforce. He said that even though Lori had given him the names of the two nominees a couple days before, there was not adequate time to follow up with them. Bruce said that the other members may not feel the same way and can move forward, but he would like to at least talk to Bill.

Carolyn asked about downstate representation on the AET. Lori responded that there is a member from Southern Illinois University and Dennis Gallo from O'Fallon school district in southern Illinois. Carolyn continued by stating a lot of technology needs are with groups south of I-80 and she wants to make sure that their voices are heard.

Carolyn said that many people have heard her say this, but in rural Illinois economic development is whether or not a prison opens or closes and that is never going to change unless there is good access to technology. The makeup of the Taskforce has three quarters or more of the members from the north where they have better service. Rural areas in Illinois are never going to grow unless they get services.

Lori pointed out that there is representation from WIU. The western part of the state has some of those same challenges. It is a very rural area with many independent telephone companies. In addition to WIU, there is representation from Spoon River College which serves a lot of communities in that area. Carolyn agreed, but would like to make sure that the members from these areas have a loud voice and are strong advocates for the issues that face rural areas.

Jay stated that he appreciates what Carolyn is saying and supports her position, but would like to go on record to say there is not bias in the Policy Committee, BCCS, CMS, or the Advanced Engineering Taskforce. All of the studies coming out of these groups document the search for solutions for last mile connectivity and a lot of the emphasis lately has been placed on getting more choices and selection. The College of DuPage is not necessarily going to benefit from those things or the U of I and larger campuses, so there does not seem to be a bias. The ICN will continue to make sure that the interest of the entire state is looked after, but there is nothing in the reports indicating that they have lost focus and if anything under Gary's leadership there has been a greater emphasis on wireless solutions.

Lori asked if the committee would like to table the nominations. Jay suggested that the nominations be broken up if there is no objection. He would like to see this taken care of so that Gary can have a full committee to work with. Those members who would like to table their nominations in order to do some additional investigation or discovery can do so.

Ann suggested that the committee vote on all except the museums and do an e-mail vote for the museum candidates. Waiting until the September meeting would inconvenience the process.

Jay asked if there is a group that can be voted on. It could be by individual and then that nominee could be tabled or voted on.

Lori requested the members who have not met the attendance requirement be voted on first. She asked if it was the Policy Committee's wish to have those members dropped.

Jay voiced his concern to Gary about the possible loss in representation. The members are from Chicago Public Schools, Argonne, Illinois State Museum, Northwestern University, and ISBE. These are key organizations in the constituent base. Jay asked Gary if these individuals need to move on and replacements sought out of their constituency, or if other candidates be sought. Jay is concerned about losing the knowledge that these groups bring to the table.

Gary indicated that the individuals may have attended one if any meetings last year and if they are taking up a slot they need to contribute. A different individual from that organization would be fine, but somehow the commitment isn't there to carry through on their role with the Taskforce.

Jay asked how Linda Winkler from Argonne was brought to the table. Lori responded that she was part of the original group when the ICN was conceived.

Jay followed up by asking if the upper management of these organizations knew their representatives were derelict in representing their interest. For example if the Chicago Public Schools superintendent or CIO knew this was happening would the attendance situation change? Jay asked if it would make sense to send letters of such decisions to the senior reporting director or vertical of each dropped member and let them know they lost representation on the AET because of lack of attendance. They could then be asked to contact the ICN with another representative if they would like to continue participating in the group. Gary agreed they each bring a certain perspective and it is important to have these key players as part of the group.

Pete asked if all the boxes on the matrix can be filled in. Lori indicated that there is no set number of members. The Policy Committee has never dictated that the committee have a specific number of members. Gary added that membership is also based on geography and size in order to bring different points of view.

Pete suggested voting on the new members except museums, renewing the terms of those that need renewed and having a motion to contact these other agencies who are recommended to be dropped giving them a last warning. Pete asked if the members had been warned or if there is a formal process of notification. Gary replied there was none. The members were notified of the rule change at the first and subsequent meetings.

Jay said he would be interested in knowing how the CIO of the Chicago Public Schools or Argonne would react if they knew their representation was lacking. They need to be notified by the Policy Committee, not the Taskforce. The representative can be copied and notified that if

there is no attendance at the next meeting they will lose representation. Gary added that Joel Mambretti adds a huge value because of his involvement in national networking, but he attended one meeting during the last two years. That is one out of eight meetings.

Pete suggested that members could have alternates. Gary said that alternates are encouraged and that has been conveyed in the meeting and in the minutes which are published for all members.

Bruce added that he felt that if the Policy Committee members had been notified that their representatives were not attending, this wouldn't have been an issue. That way the members would not have to read about it in the packet that their members were lax in attendance. Lori said that his comment was fair and suggested a report at every Policy Committee meeting showing the participation at the AET meetings. Bruce indicated that since he now knows that his representative has not been attending, he will take steps to correct that.

Lori agreed to have a short standing item at future meetings with an update on the attendance at AET meetings so that members can track their representative's attendance throughout the year.

Bruce said that he would like to back off from his previous statement that he would not vote. He also would like to make a third nomination for a downstate representative. Carolyn noted that she would like to see a downstate local government representative.

Pete suggested the voting on members begin. It can be by color band on the handout or candidate by candidate. Lori asked if the recommendation is for the members who are in danger of being dropped be sent a letter providing official notification. Jay concurred that he would recommend the letter go out.

Lori asked if the letter would only go to the individual's direct report. Jay replied that his recommendation would be to send one to the individual with copies sent to the person's vertical head of their reporting chain and to the Policy Committee domain owner. This way the constituent representative for K-12 would have a copy of that letter as well as the individual. There are two choices, to send it to the individual or to send it to the individual and copy his/her boss and the constituent representation. It really comes back to whether it is the organization or the person. Jay believes it is the organization.

The consensus was the organization needs to be made aware.

Jay continued by saying that in addition to the organization each policy board member or constituent should have some responsibility in making sure that they sponsor individuals who are going to show up. Jay asked if anyone would like to make a motion that the Policy Committee will take action on the AET members who are not attending by sending a letter to the representative's highest reporting executive with the individual and domain sponsor copied.

Lori asked if the person would then be able to continue for another year. Jay replied that the member will be on probation and required to attend at least two meetings.

Motion: Jay Carlson moved; Todd Jorns seconded, that letters be sent to the vertical head, the individual and the Policy Committee member representative notifying them that they are in arrears of the attendance requirements of the AET. The member is conditionally approved for the following year provided they participate in at least two meetings. Motion carried.

Lori said the next item is the nomination of new members. Jay recommended that the committee work through the members from left to right on the handout and the Policy Committee domain owner can make a motion or take a pass.

Lori noted that there was no K-12 representation today. Jay said that he will make a motion for Jim Peterson from Bloomington Public Schools because he is concerned that K-12 representation is waning.

Motion: Jay Carlson moved; Bruce McMillan seconded, that Jim Peterson be appointed to serve a three year term on the Advanced Engineering Taskforce. Motion carried.

Lori announced Greg DeYoung with Eastern Illinois University was nominated representing Higher Education.

Motion: Lynn Murphy moved; Todd Jorns seconded, that Greg DeYoung be appointed to serve a three year term on the Advanced Engineering Taskforce. Motion carried.

Lori announced that from the Libraries Karim Adib with the Chicago Public Library was nominated.

Motion: Ann Craig moved; Bruce McMillan seconded, that Karim Adib be appointed to serve a three year term on the Advanced Engineering Taskforce. Motion carried.

Lori announced from the Museums there are two nominations, Robert Dulski with Brookfield Zoo and Cheryl Obermeyer with the Chicago Historical Society.

Motion: Bruce McMillan moved; Lynn Murphy seconded, that Robert Dulski and Cheryl Obermeyer be appointed to serve three year terms on the Advanced Engineering Taskforce. Motion carried.

Lori announced Ellen Barry with McCormick Place was nominated from the Other Institutions category. Since there is not a domain owner for this group on the Policy Committee, Lori asked if anyone would like to make a nomination.

Jay asked who nominated Ellen. Lori responded that Bill Barnett with the Field Museum did. He felt Ellen's knowledge and experience with technology could bring a lot to the table.

Jay said he did not have an opinion one way or the other, but wanted to point out that McCormick Place is the closest constituent the ICN has to a for-profit organization. McCormick is a government institution, but it's also a profit center. The wonderful thing about the Policy

Committee and AET is their neutral perspective and that should be maintained. Jay asked if the group felt they should move forward with the nomination?

Lori said that she did not know Ellen personally, but the feedback from the Regional Technology Centers about McCormick had been positive. Lori asked Lynn for any feedback she might have. Lynn replied that she had worked with Ellen before, but since Ellen is more administrative, maybe a technical person from McCormick would be more appropriate.

Lori asked if anyone would like to nominate Ellen Barry. There was no nomination so Ellen Barry's nomination to the Taskforce was declined.

Lori stated the next group was the Units of Local Government which also does not have a representative on the Policy Committee. There are currently no nominations. Lori asked if anyone had a nomination. There were none.

Lori announced the final group is State Agencies. Under this category is the State Board of Education Learning Technology Centers. They are quasi state, but there is a nomination for Faye Sinnott with Learning Technology Center 1 based in the Chicago suburbs. Abe Loveless has not been able to participate over the last couple of years, probably due to limited time. Lori asked if anyone would like to recommend Faye Sinnott. There was no nomination so Faye's nomination to the Taskforce was declined.

Lynn asked why the Learning Technology Center representatives are not categorized under the K-12 column. Lori replied that it is because their funding comes from the State Board of Education. They don't really fit the State Agency or K-12 categories. Lynn followed up by asking if the AET plans to add additional State Agency representatives to the group. Lori replied that it is something they would like to do, but there have not been any candidates identified.

Ann asked about the Regional Library Systems being a part of the group under libraries since they provide the same sort of services to libraries as the LTCs do to schools. Ann mentioned that Troy Brown at the Shawnee Library System used to work for the ICN and would be an excellent addition to the AET. She said she would have to ask him if he would like to be a part of the group, but she would vouch for his qualifications. Lori asked Ann if she wanted to make a motion to nominate him.

Motion: Ann Craig moved; Lynn Murphy seconded, that Troy Brown be appointed to serve a three year term on the Advanced Engineering Taskforce provided he agrees to the nomination. Motion carried.

Lori indicated that she would reach out to Troy and would let Ann know his response. Lori asked if there were any other nominations.

Todd Jorns asked if there was any plan to add a local government representative from downstate. Carolyn brought forth several names: Brian Smith who runs the township officials, and Kelly Murray who is over the county officials. Lori said that if Carolyn could provide her with some

possible members she would be happy to discuss serving on the Taskforce with them. Carolyn said she would provide Lori with the names of potential members.

Lori announced that the next issue regarding the AET was the chair. Gary Wenger was appointed chair two years ago. His term as chair expired in June. Lori recommended Gary serve as the chair for one more year as he is retiring at the end of 2006. Gary has done an outstanding job with this group and Lori asked the committee to approve Gary to serve as chair for one more year. Gary indicated he would be willing to serve for another year.

Motion: Todd Jorns moved; Jay Carlson seconded, that Gary Wenger's term as AET chair be renewed for one year. Motion carried.

Lori stated the last item to be approved was the terms for expiring members Alan Pfeifer, Charles Kline, and Todd Cooper. They would be renewed for another three year term ending in 2008.

Motion: Jay Carlson moved; Todd Jorns seconded, to renew the expired terms for Alan Pfeifer, Charles Kline, and Todd Cooper. Motion carried.

Network update

Lori introduced the last item on the agenda, the Network Update. The item gives updates on the network migration of state agencies and the network upgrades. Due to time she asked if there were any questions and there were none.

FY06 Meeting Schedule

Lori brought up the meeting schedule for Fiscal Year 06. The standard meeting schedule is to meet the third Wednesday in the months of September, November, February, and June. She asked the group if they wanted to continue with that schedule. The overall consensus was to continue with this schedule.

Motion: Jay Carlson moved; Marianne Stanke seconded, that the Policy Committee meetings be held on the third Wednesday of the months of September, November, February and June in FY06. Motion carried.

Lori announced that the meeting dates would be sent out for people to mark their calendars. The dates are September 21, November 16, February 15, and June 21 at 2:00 p.m. The meetings will continue to be offered in Chicago and Springfield. Members can participate via video or via audio bridge.

Jay wished Pete the best in his new activities in South Carolina. This was seconded by several others.

Motion: Pete Ashi moved; Jay Carlson seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

REVIEW NEW MEMBERSHIP AND REVIEW 2006 MEETING DATES

Submitted for: Information

Summary: Introduction of new members and review of the meeting dates
scheduled for 2006

Action Requested: None

*Complete item will be provided at the meeting.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

E-RATE UPDATE

Submitted for: Information

Summary: This item provides an update of the e-rate funds received.

Action Requested: None

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

E-RATE UPDATE

As of October 31, 2005, the Illinois Century Network/CMS has received E-Rate funds totaling \$1,469,306 during Fiscal Year 06. This figure represents a combination of funds received from Program Years Five and Six.

There is currently \$1,097,244 in approved funding for Year 4 that has not yet been received. Since the June 2005 Policy Committee meeting, further research resulted in decreasing this figure by \$ 832,997, to accurately reflect the status of older, outstanding funding requests.

A repayment to USAC of erroneously disbursed funds in the amount of \$25,897 from an E-rate Year 1 audit finding was made in October 2005. A funding reimbursement check for \$1,097,244 (via SBC) will be issued by USAC upon receipt and processing of this repayment.

This table summarizes the most recent E-Rate activity:

E-Rate Activity

Program Year	Received	Approved – Not yet received	Applied for Not yet approved	Under Appeal
Year 3	\$2,137,765	-0-	-0-	N/A
Year 4	\$1,082,484	\$1,097,244 ¹	-0-	\$2,274,232 ²
Year 5	\$4,996,227 ³	-0-	-0-	N/A
Year 6	\$4,644,171	-0-	-0-	N/A
Year 7	-0-	N/A	-0-	\$5,474,865
Year 8	-0-	N/A	\$ 7,464,940	N/A
Totals	\$12,860,647	\$1,097,244	\$ 7,464,940	\$7,749,097

¹ This figure shows a reduction of \$832,997 from the figure reported in June 2005.

² Due to recent scrutiny of the e-rate program, the FCC has made commitments to resolve all backlogged appeal cases in as timely manner as possible, with a target date of December 31, 2005.

³ This figure reflects an increase of \$433,860 over the \$117,540 figure previously reported as “not yet received,” reported in June 2005. Research revealed that funds had been disbursed by the vendor (Sprint), but had never actually been received by the ICN. The amount due to ICN was reduced to reflect a repayment demand by USAC for erroneously disbursed funds in the amount of \$18,790 as the result of an E-rate funding year 1 audit. Sprint was the associated vendor in both cases, which made it possible to net out the repayment to USAC with the re-issue of funding due to the ICN.

The application for funding Year 8 was submitted on February 17, 2005, which included a funding request totaling \$7,464,940. As with funding Year 7, a letter of denial was received on October 11th from USAC. The reason stated is the same as Year 7. Pending a response from the FCC concerning the Year 7 appeal, a letter of appeal will be submitted for Year 8.

Funding for Year 7 remains under appeal. A decision by the SLD to deny the appeal was received in early October. In anticipation of this response, a letter of appeal had been prepared for submission to the FCC. This letter was submitted to the FCC on October 12th. (According to E-rate program guidelines, the FCC will not act upon an appeal while it remains under review at the SLD.) Two very favorable cases have been cited in this appeal that closely relate to the ICN's appeal. Both of these cases involve decisions made by the FCC that favored the applicant.

In July 2005, a performance audit was conducted by USAC, through the services of KPMG, for the E-rate funding Year 5 application submitted through ISBE. Fieldwork was performed by the auditors at ISBE's offices in Springfield. A collaborative effort was made by ICN and ISBE personnel to supply the requested documentation and to address any questions or issues that arose while the audit was being conducted. Prior to the auditors' departure, a status meeting was held on August 5th to address a few outstanding issues and requests for documentation. A final exit conference was held on October 28th where KPMG reviewed a draft report of their audit findings.

Final audit results will not be known until the official report is submitted by KPMG to USAC for review. However, most findings and recommendations are related to document retention procedures and oversight of program compliance by consortium member constituents. In addition, there was one finding presented in the draft report that may result in a relatively small funding repayment to USAC.

Recent changes and restrictions put in place by USAC have resulted in the E-rate program becoming increasingly complicated. Two of the most significant forms required in the application process, the 470 and the 471, have undergone change. Additional detailed information is now required on the Form 470. Information pertaining to the procurement process, services being sought, recipients of services, and certifications of compliance with program rules have been expanded to a more detailed level. On the Form 471, new identifiers for entities have been added, additional budgetary information is required, and additional certifications for compliance have been added.

Presently, information gathering and preparation is taking place to submit funding requests for E-rate funding Year 9. A mass mailing was conducted in August requesting CIPA compliance forms and Letters of Agency from ICN constituent school districts. Response rate to date has been very good.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

NETWORK UPDATE

Submitted for: Information

Summary: This item provides an update on recent network activities, including backbone upgrades, project Hercules, the network audit and the IP video migration.

Action Requested: None

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

NETWORK UPDATE

Network Backbone

The following network backbone upgrades are currently in progress.

1. The backbone circuit between Bloomington and Champaign will be upgraded from OC3 (155 Mb) to OC12 (622 Mb).
2. The backbone circuit between Carbondale and Olney will be upgraded from OC3 (155Mb) to OC12 (622 Mb).
3. The backbone circuit between Olney and Charleston will be upgraded from OC3 (155Mb) to OC12 (622 Mb).
4. The backbone circuit between Charleston and Champaign will be upgraded from OC3 (155 Mb) to OC12 (622 Mb).
5. An upgrade is being planned for the DeKalb POP site to include a new GSR 12410 router that will provide redundancy in the core. The equipment for this upgrade is being ordered and is expected to arrive in January.
6. All Cisco 7500 core routers are being upgraded to GSR 12000 routers standardizing on one platform for the core.

These upgrades will ensure that we continue to deliver the same level of network reliability that our customers have come to expect. Staff will continue to monitor network growth and performance and plan for additional upgrades as needed in the future.

Project Hercules

The Department of Central Management Services (CMS) Bureau of Communication and Computer Services (BCCS) has completed the migration of all sites from the SBC Frame Relay network to the Illinois Century Network (ICN). The initial phase of the project started in August 2004. The final phase of the project was complete in September 2005. Over 1,300 state agency circuits now utilize the ICN on a daily basis to support a wide range of routine and mission critical applications.

Network Audit

A network consultant was brought in through the Cisco Systems' Professional Services team in August to complete a sixty-day comprehensive audit of the Illinois Century Network. This audit focused upon an analysis of the method and procedures documents used throughout Project Hercules, an assessment of the network, vulnerabilities, and recommendations. The findings of the audit were shared with staff and management and are currently being taken into consideration in the finalization of a three to five year network roadmap for ICN services.

IP Videoconferencing Migration

The schedule to complete the migration of the remaining state agency videoconferencing sites from H.320 to H.323 (IP Videoconferencing) has been extended due to delays in network equipment delivery. The project originally slated for completion in November is now scheduled for completion by February 2006. Videoconferencing rates for managed and non-managed services have been finalized for all ICN customers.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

BUDGET UPDATE

Submitted for: Information

Summary: This item provides a recap of the fiscal year 2005 final (pre-audit) budget, an update of the fiscal year 2006 budget, and updates regarding the E-rate program.

Action Requested: None

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

BUDGET UPDATE
FISCAL YEAR 2005 FINAL (PRE-AUDIT),
FISCAL YEAR 2006 UPDATE
E-RATE PROGRAM UPDATE

This item presents the Policy Committee with a fiscal year 2005 Final (Pre-Audit) budget summary, a fiscal year 2006 update, and an E-rate program update. In FY05, the \$20.1 million CMS/ICN appropriation was funded by the General Revenue Fund (GRF), with a commitment of additional funding from the CMS Communications Revolving Fund (CRF). Revenues from E-rate reimbursements, cost recovery, and the ICN balance from the Board of Higher Education Fund 736 (used in FY04) were deposited into the CRF. Actual FY 2005 revenues received were much higher than originally projected due to the level of E-rate funding receipts throughout the fiscal year. Cost recovery receipts were consistent with projected expectations.

E-rate reimbursements in fiscal year 2005 totaled \$5.7 million. In fiscal year 2005 diligent efforts were made to pursue approved funding requests that had not been received, resulting in both increased revenues and a more accurate appraisal of the current status regarding these outstanding requests. Tom Oseland discovered an E-rate reimbursement payment that had been issued by Sprint, but was never received by the ICN, which resulted in the issuance of a new check in the amount of \$ 433,860. A similar situation, due to an erroneously issued funding payment by USAC, resulted in a \$25,897 refund to USAC (as reported on the FY06 budget update.) Once this overpayment has been processed by USAC, the ICN will be issued a check in the amount of \$1,097,244 for funding year 4. The attached e-rate report provides more detailed information regarding the E-rate program.

Contractual expenditures in FY05 were well below the projected amount for the year. This can be attributed to greatly reduced spending in the areas of Legal fees, Professional and Artistic expenses (i.e. the On-site Training initiative), Registration and Conference fees, and Employee Tuition reimbursement. The Prompt Payment Interest line was a consequence of the delay in making GRF payments to vendors, due to cash flow problems at the State level.

The FY06 budget update reflects the GRF appropriation, as well as the CRF portion that has been committed to the network as necessary. The current denials by USAC of E-rate funding requests, although currently under appeal with the FCC, have the potential to create major shortfalls in the ICN budgets in future fiscal years.

ICN constituents continue to be responsible and timely in paying for billed ICN services. Due to the state's Telecommunications and IT Rationalization initiative, more state agencies are connecting to the network. Logistics regarding cost allocation, rate setting and federal reimbursements make it imperative to track those revenues in the CMS MONIES/EMS11 system instead of ICN's MAS90 Accounts Receivable system. Once the EMS11 system is fully operational, all ICN billing will transition to that system as well.

Due to the state's economy and cost saving measures, as well as the anticipated possible reduction in E-rate funding, every effort has been made to contain costs. Revenues in excess of projected expenses are earmarked for new initiatives that will occur during this and future fiscal years.

ICN was included in the IBHE compliance audit that was performed by the Office of the Auditor General for FY04. The field work portion was performed on ICN fiscal operating procedures in mid-June, 2005. To date, no issues or findings have been presented.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

Fiscal Year 2005

August 31, 2005

FINAL

Pre-Audit

REVENUE SOURCES:	Proposed at	
	September 15, 2004	Actual at August 31, 2005
ICN Appropriation:	20,000,000	20,124,015
E-Rate Reimbursement:	1,585,951	5,771,055 ¹
Cost Recovery Funds:	2,500,000	2,458,412
TOTAL REVENUE:	23,685,951	28,353,482
Transfer from BHE Fund 736 – FY04 Portion	7,404,288	7,404,288
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	31,090,239	35,757,770
EXPENDITURES:		
Personnel (Salary & FICA):	4,260,495	3,658,302
Personnel (Retirement):	200,000	144,254
Facilities Management Transfer:	0	275,985 ²
Contractual:	1,632,200	975,328
Commodities:	69,100	13,559
Equipment:	175,500	897
EDP Equipment:	-0-	33,688
Telecommunications:	24,702,944	22,150,850 ³
Operation of Auto:	10,000	2,471
Prompt Payment Interest:	40,000	36,642
Permanent Improvements:	-0-	-0-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	31,090,239	27,291,976

¹ Includes \$5,769,626 in checks and \$ 1,429 in credits from telecommunications vendors.

² Facilities Management Transfer for FY05. These costs would have been included in Contractual Expenses in prior fiscal years.

³ Includes \$ 22,149,421 in payments and \$ 1,429 in e-rate credits.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK**Fiscal Year 2006****October 31, 2005**

REVENUE SOURCES:	Proposed	Actual at October 31, 2005
ICN GRF Appropriation:	19,005,924	19,005,924
ICN CRF Appropriation:	11,787,000	11,787,000
E-Rate Reimbursement:	1,469,306	1,469,306
Cost Recovery Funds:	2,500,000	845,554
TOTAL REVENUE:	34,762,230	33,107,784
EXPENDITURES:		
Personnel (Salary & FICA):	4,171,876	1,113,954
Personnel (Retirement):	132,000	19,003
Facilities Management Payment:	206,989	206,989
Contractual:	1,127,011	416,671
Travel:	77,000	7,146
Commodities:	33,000	3,786
Printing:	5,000	-0-
Equipment:	72,594	397
EDP Equipment:	12,904	2,554
Telecommunications:	24,922,550	5,357,960
Operation of Auto:	5,000	622
Prompt Payment Interest:	-0-	-0-
Permanent Improvements:	-0-	-0-
Refunds:	27,000	25,897
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	30,792,924	7,154,979

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK
COST RECOVERY – FISCAL YEAR 2007

Submitted for: Information

Summary: Staff recommendations for fiscal year 2007 cost recovery to be forwarded to BCCS/CMS management for review.

Action Requested: None

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

COST RECOVERY – FISCAL YEAR 2007

In 2002 the ICN implemented cost recovery to ensure the availability of reliable bandwidth in light of increased utilization and limited financial resources. The policy provides a vehicle for non-primary constituents to purchase bandwidth to connect to the ICN and a financial incentive for larger bandwidth users, primarily higher education, to shape their bandwidth. Keeping with the commitment to notify constituents of changes in bandwidth pricing and/or bandwidth allocation, with enough lead time for institutional planning, this item serves to outline several considerations impacting cost recovery for fiscal year 2007. The usual practice has been to notify constituents in November of changes that will become effective the following fiscal year, (July 1 – June 30). Most primary constituents prepare their budgets in early spring, so this timeline provides opportunity for technical and fiscal planning.

Bandwidth Allocation and Pricing

Due in large part to strategic negotiations with vendors and the addition of state agency constituents, the ICN has been able to maintain relatively level operating costs despite continuous increases in bandwidth demands from constituents. Despite a decrease in state funding for the network, CMS remains committed to maintaining current ICN bandwidth allocation and pricing. Therefore, ICN constituents will continue to receive baseline bandwidth at the current fiscal year 2006 allocation and that costs for additional bandwidth will also remain at the current price.

The fiscal year 2007 bandwidth allocation for primary constituents is reflected in Table 1:

Table 1
Baseline Bandwidth Allocation

Baseline Transit Amounts for Primary Constituent Direct Connections		
Institution(s) (FTE) Headcount	ICN Provided Base Bandwidth/Transit (Mbps)	Total Bandwidth
Less than 1,000	1.5 Mbps	1.5 Mbps
1,000 – 13,999	1.5 Mbps per 1,000 Enrollment or FTE	3 – 21 Mbps

14,000 – 22,000	1.0 Mbps per 1,000 Enrollment or FTE	22 – 30 Mbps
Additional Bandwidth Costs	Purchase at Fiscal Year 2006 Cost Recovery Rates listed below	Over 30 Mbps

Table 2 reflects the fiscal year 2007 bandwidth pricing:

Table 2
FISCAL YEAR 2007 BANDWIDTH PRICING

Fiscal Year 2007 Bandwidth Pricing	
Bandwidth Available	Fiscal Year 2007 Cost per Mbps
Less than 10 Mbps	\$250
10 - 24 Mbps	\$225
25 - 44 Mbps	\$200
45 - 99 Mbps	\$175
100 Mbps and above	\$150

The network was created and funded to provide constituents with advanced services such as interactive video and access to educational content from remote sources. Many of the educational institutions have been upgrading their internal infrastructure and purchasing hardware to be able to take advantage of these applications, however the current baseline bandwidth allocation for primary constituents is not adequate to accommodate these applications. Additionally, most schools are in no financial position to purchase the bandwidth necessary to support applications such as IP video. The cost of the access circuit(s) is difficult enough for them to fund. This is particularly true for the smallest schools that are only allocated 1.5 megabits of bandwidth and would stand to benefit greatly from educational content that would otherwise be inaccessible due to cost. ICN/BCCS will continue to re-evaluate the current baseline amounts and cost structure, looking for opportunities to increase baselines and/or reduce costs as well as pursue alternatives for last mile connectivity.

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

ADVANCED ENGINEERING TASKFORCE UPDATE

Submitted for: Information

Summary: This item is to inform the Policy Committee of the activities of the AET and introduce the attendance chart.

Action Requested: None

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

ADVANCED ENGINEERING TASKFORCE UPDATE

The Advanced Engineering Taskforce (AET) held its first meeting of the fiscal year on September 30, 2005 in Normal. Topics on the agenda were FY05 report recommendations, the AET charge, cost recovery, FY06 deliverables and updates on CMS/ICN activities and the Policy Committee. Nineteen members attended the meeting.

At the June 15, 2005 meeting the Policy Committee approved new member terms and the renewal of membership for others. Several members were notified by the Policy Committee that they will be dropped from the AET if they do not attend the required two meetings a year to maintain membership.

The attendance chart gives a listing of the current AET members, their attendance at each meeting or if they sent a substitute, and the total meeting attendance including staff. This handout will be distributed at each Policy Committee meeting to allow members to keep track of their representation on the committee.

The Advanced Engineering Task Force Report for FY05 recommended for a *review of the ICN vision, mission and the development of a strategic plan*. The current vision was created in 1997 by the state-wide Higher Education Task Force, under the direction of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board. The task force recommended that a state wide network be created, funded and supported by a State of Illinois organization called the Illinois Century Network. In 1999, the General Assembly approved Act 20 ILCS 391 declaring:

1. That computing and communications technologies are essential for sustaining economic competitiveness and fostering the educational vitality of this State.
2. That there is an established need for a telecommunications infrastructure that will provide high-speed, reliable, and cost-effective digital connections throughout the State.
3. That a network is required that will deliver educational programs, advanced training, and access to the growing global wealth of information services to citizens in all parts of this State.

This Act included “The Illinois Century Network shall be a high speed telecommunications network that provides reliable communication links to and among Illinois schools, institutions of higher education, libraries, museums, research institutions, State agencies, units of local government, and other local entities that provide services to Illinois citizens. The Illinois Century Network shall build on existing investments in

networking schools, colleges, and universities, avoid duplication of future efforts, maintain sufficient capacity to meet the requirements of the participating institutions, and stay current with rapid developments in technology. The Illinois Century Network shall be capable of delivering state-of-the-art access to education, training, and electronic information and shall provide access to networking technologies for institutions located in even the most remote areas of this State.”

A major goal of the act was connecting Illinois’ public organizations to a state-wide network accessing the Internet. All public higher education and K-12 organizations received a bandwidth allocation based on the access requirements defined in 1999. Today, the ICN connects more than 8,000 organizations throughout the state including K-12, higher education, libraries, museums, state agencies, hospitals, local governments, and other non-profit organizations.

Over the past six years the funding that was provided through the original legislative allocation has continued to be reduced (from \$27M in FY00 to \$19M in FY06) while the demand for additional bandwidth has continued to grow. Most organizations still have the original 1999 bandwidth allocation based on student FTE. The allocation severely limits the K-12 and Higher Education organizations access to video and streaming content.

The AET is commissioning a committee to revisit the original vision and develop a strategic plan for the Illinois Century Network that will assess progress in the implementation of the network, identify changes in conditions that represent opportunities and threats to the success of the network in the future, clarify and redefine goals as appropriate, and identify priorities for the planning period. In order for the strategic plan to be meaningful and effective, the constituents of the ICN will be involved in the planning process. Specific objectives include:

- To achieve renewed consensus and commitment to a vision for the Illinois Century Network.
- To consider and address the impact of technological, environmental and political changes and user needs which may impact the direction of the ICN.
- To rewrite the current plan to reflect today’s environment and develop recommendations that can be used to guide the direction of the ICN effort for the next five years.

The Taskforce has contracted with the Center for the Application of Information Technologies (CAIT) at Western Illinois University to conduct this review and prepare a final report. CAIT has engaged the services of Dr. Ross Hodel, former Deputy Director for Information Systems, Communications and Grants with IBHE and currently Director for the College of Education Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University and Kathleen Kelly, former Deputy Director for Academic Affairs with IBHE as consultants to work on the report.

Currently the committee consists of the following volunteers:

Gary Wenger, Co-Chair, Vice President of Information Technology, College of DuPage

Jim Flanagan, Co-Chair, Director of Technology, Maine Township High School District #207

Mike Dickson, Director, Center for the Application of Information Technologies, Western Illinois University

Joel Mambretti, Director of the International Center for Advanced Internet Research, Northwestern University

Dennis Gallo, Technology Coordinator, O'Fallon Community Consolidated School District 90

Lori Sorenson, Chief Operating Officer, Central Management Services-BCCS

Rich Fetter, Senior Network Manager, Central Management Services-BCCS

The AET is looking for additional volunteers from each AET constituent group to serve on the task force. The project will start immediately and is due to be completed by May 2006.

Future meetings of the AET for FY06 will be held in Normal at Heartland Community College on February 24 and April 28. More information on the Advanced Engineering Taskforce can be found on the ICN web site at <http://www.illinois.net/aet/>.