

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

December 8-9, 2008
Room 535-N—Statehouse

Members Present

Senator Tim Huelskamp, Chairperson
Representative Joe McLeland, Vice-Chairperson (Monday only)
Senator Mike Petersen
Senator Chris Steineger
Senator Janis Lee (Tuesday only)
Representative Jim Morrison
Representative Mike Burgess
Representative Harold Lane
Representative Nile Dillmore

Staff Present

Don Heiman, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer
Aaron Klaassen, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cody Gorges, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees

Keith Meyers, Director of Training Services, Kansas Department of Commerce
Dr. Rebecca Gould, Professor, Hospitality Management and Dietetics Director,
Information Technology Assistance Center, Kansas State University
Bill Noll, Director of Information Technology, Kansas Department of Corrections
Tom Beall, Chief Deputy, Kansas Attorney General's Office
Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation
David Marshall, Program Manager, Traffic Records Coordinating Council, Kansas
Department of Transportation
Steve Davis, CEO, Soos Creek Consulting
Don Cawby, Director of Administration, Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission
Keith Kocher, Director of Gaming Facilities, Kansas Lottery
Bob Corkins, Kansasvotes.org, Flint Hills Center for Public Policy

Kent Olson, Director, Division of Accounts and Reports, Kansas Department
of Administration
John Oliver, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System

Monday, December 8 Morning Session

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and welcomed Keith Meyers, Director of Training Services, Kansas Department of Commerce, who briefed the Committee on the agency's Regional Education and Workforce Access Remote Delivery project ([Attachment 1](#)). He said that the Department can no longer afford to provide employment services to many smaller communities with the physical presence of staff; the project proposes to deploy high-definition video-conferencing in libraries throughout the state to meet the needs of current customers and extend the geographic reach of employment services and training. He stated that the Department has partnered with various regional entities to extend outreach even to correctional facilities. The estimated cost of the project is \$500,000 with funding provided from federal sources. Answering a question, Mr. Meyers said the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO) has not yet approved the project.

Dr. Rebecca Gould, Professor, Hospitality Management and Dietetics Director, Information Technology Assistance Center, Kansas State University (KSU), outlined the University's learning management system, K-State Online, an electronic learning service accessed this semester by 21,366 students and 1,551 faculty ([Attachment 2](#)). The service provides many electronic learning tools for students as well as serving as an information exchange among students and faculty. Answering questions, Dr. Gould said a visitor can access the system as a guest and a student can access the system from a remote location. She replied that lectures are the property of the professors. Responding to a question about the amount of traffic on the system, she said that last year on December 24, when grades were posted, 20,000 users accessed the system. A member commented on the value of the system and suggested that such resources should be shared by other Regents' institutions rather than each institution building its own system. Dr. Gould noted that *PC Magazine* (September 3, 2008) listed KSU as one of the nation's top-wired colleges ([Attachment 3](#)). She replied that the most popular information other than grades is lecture materials. She responded that faculty members collaborate with various colleges and professors across the nation and even worldwide. She said a person can take some courses online.

Bill Noll, Director of Information Technology, Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), gave a status report on the Information Technology (IT) Replenishment; he noted that cost savings have reduced the projected costs from \$400,000 to \$180,000 ([Attachment 4](#)). He also commented on the projected Offender Management Information System Replacement, noting that work developing two separate systems (Offender Management Information System – OMIS, and Total Offender Activity and Document System – TOADS) was halted at the recommendation of the JCIT, and currently the agency is creating an enterprise architecture, which will be completed in May 2009. He acknowledged that the hiatus has resulted in losing \$900,000, leaving the project unfunded beyond the enterprise architecture.

Tom Beall, Chief Deputy, Kansas Attorney General's Office, introduced a proposed new Case Management System, commenting that presently the agency has eight different software systems, none of which is interoperable, leaving office functions uncoordinated. He stated that the proposed system will integrate office functions, provide better communication, and offer imaging tools and metadata to serve customers more effectively. Responding to a question, Mr. Beall said he would provide annual caseloads later.

The Chairperson reminded Committee members to be considering what recommendations to make to the 2009 Legislature.

Afternoon Session

Deb Miller, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), commented on the development of the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC); she also provided a list of acronyms (Attachment 5). She introduced other presenters: David Marshall, Program Manager, TRCC, and Steve Davis, CEO, Soos Creek Consulting. She said that KDOT received a \$2.0 million grant to create the TRCC.

Mr. Marshall explained that the TRCC was initiated to improve traffic safety, the collection of safety data, and safety data systems by creating a Traffic Records System (TRS), a statewide system integrating information from local, state, and federal agencies (Attachment 6). He showed how the system will interact with various agencies and entities to effect communication, cooperation, collaboration, and innovation. Mr. Davis detailed how the TRS will interact with various data systems and agencies across the state and noted that TRS may merge with the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System to provide more comprehensive data. Answering a question, Mr. Davis said the system will conform to National Information Exchange Model standards; he commented that the development of a TRS portal will further simplify navigation among various agencies. Mr. Marshall invited members to use the website, www.kansastrs.org.

Don Cawby, Director of Administration, Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, outlined three planned projects: a financial reporting system (estimated cost, \$330,000), an integrated regulatory information system to interact with casino managers (estimated cost, \$250,000), and a casino infrastructure project (estimated cost, \$751,000). Responding to a question regarding funding, Mr. Cawby said the Legislature authorized a \$3.0 million loan, later increased to \$5.0 million, to provide start-up costs. The intent was to recoup those costs and repay the loan by assessing each casino under contract a portion of the costs. Because of the economic downturn, only one casino (at Dodge City) is presently under contract, a fact which may require the Commission to cut staff.

Keith Kocher, Director of Gaming Facilities, Kansas Lottery, reported on the advent of the new lottery system under vendor GTECH, which includes not only new software, but new terminals and displays for the 1,800+ lottery retailers. He stated that because of glitches in the new system, negotiations are underway with GTECH for liquidated damages. Responding to a question, Mr. Kocher said a raffle is gambling if it includes chance, a prize, and consideration; the disclaimer "no purchase required" exempts a raffle from gambling statutes. He said the quarter-pusher machines are considered gambling devices. He explained that Kansas statutes prohibit electronic gambling unless the process physically takes place in Kansas; legislation enabling interstate electronic gambling would be pre-empted by federal laws. He replied that GTECH machines are audited for accuracy.

Don Heiman announced an official visit from the United States House of Representatives; representatives from House staff will participate in a one-day workshop on December 16 showcasing the Kansas Legislative Information Strategic Plan (Attachment 7). Staff from the U.S. House will be joined by technologists from the National Association of State Chief Information Technology Officers.

**Tuesday, December 9
Morning Session**

Bob Corkins, Flint Hills Center for Public Policy, briefed the Committee on Kansasvotes.org, a nonprofit, nonpartisan web service that will follow the progress of the Kansas Legislative Sessions (Attachment 8). He explained that the website will reflect all the information printed in the House and Senate Journals, as well as bill summaries and histories, a vote tracker, a blog aggregator, a place for citizen comments, and wikis. He demonstrated some of these features and answered questions, saying that the six different blogs will cover the political spectrum. He said that the Center is using software developed for a similar site in Michigan. He replied that the Center is funded by donations and grants. Members compared Kansasvotes.org with VoteTracker, noting that the latter is used by the Legislature. Mr. Corkins said the Center reports donations as required by law. A member recommended adding a link to the Kansas Legislative webpage to track legislative votes.

Kent Olson, Director, Division of Accounts and Reports, Kansas Department of Administration, reported on the progress of KanView, a website to foster transparency by state agencies; the website was created by a proviso in HB 2368 of the 2007 Legislature and established by statute as SB 316 during the 2008 Legislative Session (Attachment 9). Using transactions reported by the Statewide Accounting and Reporting System (STARS), the KanView website went live on February 29, 2008. He said that the Public Finance Transparency Board, which was established to provide oversight, recently decided to include payroll information from the Statewide Human Resource/Payroll System (SHaRP). He commented that the primary searches through the website involved agency expenditures, vendor expenditures, and agency revenues. The KanView website address is <http://www.kansas.gov/kanview/>. Responding to a question, Mr. Olson said comments from the public usually are passed on to the appropriate agencies.

John Oliver, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs), reviewed agency projects (Attachment 10). He said that the KPERs Integrated Technology System (KITS) will be completed by June 2009. He listed three new projects in 2008: the Disaster Recovery Project (completed this month, cost \$257,517), the Security Enhancement Project (to be completed April 2009 at a cost of \$1.0 million), and the Platform Consolidation Project (to be completed February 2009 at a cost of \$1.7 million). He commented on a planned project to modify the business rules governing certain modules and listed three possible future projects: an Active Work Flow to improve certain business processes, an interface with SHaRP, and a KITS interface with FMS.

The minutes for November 20-21, 2008, were approved. (Motion by Representative Morrison, seconded by Representative Lane)

Legislative Research staff reported to the Committee that the VoteTracker contract with the Legislature will end on June 30, 2009; the cost is \$90,750. He also provided further information on KAN-Ed funding (Attachment 11) and a copy of previous testimony (November 20, 2008) provided by the Board of Emergency Medical Services (Attachment 12).

Regarding the lost funding for KDOC's TOADS and OMIS projects, staff stated that because the two projects were identified as areas where the agency would reduce funding as part of a Governor's recommended reduction, loss of this funding could also lead to a possible loss of grant funds reserved for these projects. Members agreed to advise the legislative funding committees that KDOC should not be penalized for following JCIT's recommendations.

Members discussed the legislative intent and ramifications of SB 546, which mandated deployment of KEMIS, and the need for medical standards. A member stated that Kansas Board of

Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS) has misinterpreted the statute's mandatory wording. A member noted the disjuncture of creating bridge software for various hospital IT systems if some trauma centers refuse to accept electronic reports. Mr. Heiman said that, to establish standards, subject-matter experts need to be given authority to promulgate agreed-upon standards. He suggested the Kansas Health Policy Authority and the Information Technology Executive Council as possible authoritative entities. He said KITO would be able to coordinate such an initiative.

Robert Waller, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, appeared before the Committee to answer questions. He said that KEMIS uses the federal gold standard (National EMS Information Systems). Mr. Waller requested that the Committee withhold any mandatory action, giving him time to employ diplomacy to lead reluctant services to participate. The Committee noted that the language in 2006 SB 546 (KSA 65-6154) clearly states that participation is mandatory.

Mr. Heiman provided additional information received from Peggy Hannah, Department of Administration, that the following agencies are not participating in the statewide FMS project: the Kansas Board of Regents, the Secretary of State's Office, the Kansas State Board of Education, the Adjutant General's Office, and the Kansas Department of Labor (Addendum A). A member commented that the \$40.0 million cost of FMS was approved with the assumption that all state agencies would be participating. Another member noted the cost savings of agencies participating in FMS. Members agreed that all state agencies should be a part of FMS.

Members further discussed that the date for repayment of the \$5 million (June 30, 2009) needs to be extended. They also agreed to alert the funding committees to the exigencies faced by the Racing and Gaming Commission.

Members discussed recommendations for the JCIT's annual report to the 2009 Legislature.

- The Committee discussed the Department of Corrections funding of \$1.75 million, including \$1.30 million from the State General Fund, for funding related to the Total Offender Activity and Document System and the Offender Management Information System (TOADS/OMIS) Replacement. The Committee suggests the 2009 Legislature consider maintaining this funding. In testimony, the agency indicated that reductions in state funding for the project could lead to the loss of \$450,000 in Justice, Equality, Humanity, Tolerance (JEHT) Foundation grant funds that were awarded for these projects.
- The Committee requests that the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO) establish a group of subject matter experts to review: 1) reporting of emergency service events to patient receiving centers such as trauma centers or hospitals; as well as 2) considering the standardization of technology use and existing standards in Kansas hospitals. This group would recommend data reporting and technology standards to the Chief Information Technology Architect and to the Chief Information Technology Officer for the Executive Branch. These standards should be used to 1) guide the development of emergency medical services reporting systems, and concurrent standards and 2) to develop technology in Kansas hospitals.
- The Committee notes that all agencies will be expected to participate in the new statewide Financial Management System (FMS). Without full participation, multiple agencies will continue to incur substantial, unnecessary costs. Information was provided to the Committee that the following agencies declined to fully

participate in the FMS: all Regents Institutions, Secretary of State, Department of Education, Adjutant General, and Department of Labor.

- The Committee notes for the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee that the financing for the Racing and Gaming Commission was approved under the assumption of multiple facilities opening in the State, and in light of the current situation, as the first facility is created, it should be noted that a system conceived for multiple facilities should not overburden any one establishment. Careful consideration and renegotiation of the \$5.0 million loan repayment terms with the Pooled Money Investment Board by the Racing and Gaming Commission should be considered as the payment is due June 30, 2009.
- In further pursuit of transparency efforts, the Committee believes a top priority for the Legislature is to provide a mechanism that allows for simple, online access to legislative voting records. The Committee heard testimony that Kansasvotes.org provides a free service by which this information can be accessed. Concerns were raised that service providers should focus on the linking of votes to the specific version of the bill that was voted upon. As bill numbers frequently change, a vote should be tied to the specific bill number and language to which the vote was cast. A suggestion was made that bill briefs provided by the Kansas Legislative Research Department reference such information, and by utilizing a link within the bill brief, easier access could be provided.
- The Committee notes that in a report required by the 2008 Senate Sub. for HB 2946, Kan-Ed recommended KUSF as its primary funding source. The Committee recommends that Kan-Ed be included in the effort to balance the state budget. Given the value of grants awarded by the network to assist in the purchase of services and equipment across the state, the Committee recommends that any reductions be made in operating expenditures. The Committee also recommends that Kan-Ed minimize its use of the KUSF by use of E-Rate funds or other as yet unidentified funding sources.

A reorganization meeting is planned for January.

Prepared by Gary Deeter
Edited by Aaron Klaassen

Approved by Committee on:

December 31, 2008

(Date)