

## **Network Nebraska—Education Advisory Group Meeting #2**

**Friday, September 18, 2009; 1:30pm-4:30pm**

**Host site: NET Board Room, 1800 N. 33<sup>rd</sup>, Lincoln, NE**

**Remote 1: Mid-Plains Community College, North Platte**

**Remote 2: University of Nebraska-Kearney, Kearney**

**Remote 3: Wayne State College, Wayne**

### **Meeting Notes**

K-12 Attendance: John Stritt, Gary Monter, Scott Jones, Kirk Langer, Bob Uhing (Wayne),

H.E. Attendance: Debbie Schroeder (Kearney), Dennis Linster (Wayne), Ken Clipperton, Lyle Neal,  
Charles Osteen (North Platte)

CAP Liaison Attendance: Brenda Decker, Walter Weir, Steve Henderson, Don Phares, Leona Roach

Absent: Dan Hoelsing, Betty Getzfred, Mike Danahy, Mike Ruhrdanz, Gene Beardslee, Tip O'Neill,  
Michael Winkle, Rick Golden

Staff: SuAnn Witt, Tom Rolfes

#### 1. Update on Phase III Implementation

- a. Tom Rolfes reported that 49 new entities successfully came on Network Nebraska by August 5, 2009, but not without some hiccups. Temporary slow downs of Internet were reported by some Panhandle schools but were later resolved using team work between the providers, Network Nebraska staff, and the ESU staff.
- b. Ben Mientka reported some video and audio problems in the Panhandle partly due to the Polycom/Cytek codec solution. For the time being, codecs that are restarted each morning have been working acceptably.
- c. John Stritt reported that the ESU 10-11 distance learning classes increased from 295 in 2008-09 to an expected 400 in 2009-10.
- d. Dennis Linster and Charles Osteen reported good network performance and no interruptions in August-September.
- e. Leona Roach reported that the WARN automatic notification system will be ready for implementation soon, as local contact information is gathered from those who will be alerted in case of expected maintenance or unanticipated outages. Contact will be by e-mail, work phone, cell phone, SMTP texting, Fax, and home phone, if desired.

#### 2. Update on Phase IV Letters of Agency

- a. Tom Rolfes reported that 21 total Letter of Agency responses were received out of 60 possible; 9 were positive and 12 were negative.
- b. Tom Rolfes predicted that the total number of new Network members in 2010 will total less than a dozen.
- c. Advisory Group members held a lengthy discussion on what could be done to encourage more Network Nebraska membership.
  - i. The members agreed to make available or send a delegation to have a meeting with the SNDLC officers consisting of Ken Clipperton, Lyle Neal, Kirk Langer, and SuAnn Witt. They may also ask assistance from Craig Pease, member of the Education Council
  - ii. The urgency is that if the SNDLC schools and ESUs do not commit by September 25 (LoA deadline) that it is unlikely that they would join the network in 2010. The members agree that they would desire an open and transparent conversation, if a meeting was agreed upon.

3. Processes/Procedures for forming recommendations
  - a. A discussion was held about the process and/or procedures for forming recommendations. Although the group operates informally, and by consensus, they did agree that addressing the differential needs of the separate constituencies are very important to their eventual recommendations.
  - b. Kirk Langer suggested that the Advisory Group focus first on services, capacity, reliability, and the differential needs of public vs. private, and state/community colleges vs. K-12.
4. Draft Charter
  - a. Tom Rolfes presented the draft charter. The Advisory Group members welcomed the document and asked that it be considered for approval at their next meeting, after members had had time to thoroughly review it.
5. Election of Advisory Group leadership
  - a. Tom Rolfes presented different models for Advisory Group leadership, with a Co-Chair from K-12 and a Co-Chair from Higher Education meeting the most agreement.
  - b. John Stritt was nominated and elected as Co-Chair for K-12 by acclamation. He will serve at least through July 2010 when the Advisory Group is reviewed.
  - c. Dennis Linster was nominated and elected as Co-Chair for Higher Education by acclamation. He will serve at least through July 2010 when the Advisory Group is reviewed.
6. Discussion
  - a. Membership categories—No action was taken on designating different membership categories for Network Nebraska.
  - b. Membership services—Advisory Group members agreed that network services was perhaps the most important issue to address in the near future. Future challenges include support of content management, learning management systems, and a 24/7 help desk.
  - c. Membership costs—Tom Rolfes reviewed the 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 Network Nebraska membership costs. No action was taken on any alternate membership costs for Network Nebraska. The members recognized that the Network staff levels may be underfunded and that no Executive Director exists for Network Nebraska—Education.
  - d. Helpdesk—Members expressed their desire for a 24/7 Network Nebraska help desk. The service response time (e.g. faster = more costly) was a possible model for future premium services.
  - e. Goal-setting—Dennis Linster shared that the members should focus their energy on helping set a solid 2010-11 Network Nebraska budget, know where the funding is going with Network expenses, and be ready to review for possible pitfalls.
  - f. Strategic planning—Members did not engage in any strategic plans except for the possible activities to recruit new members for 2010-11.
7. Next Meeting Date & Location
  - a. Members suggested that staff conduct a Doodle poll to determine the best date for the next meeting. Proximity to the Nebraska Digital Government Summit was one possibility.

List of Supporting Documents:

- Meeting notes, 7-10-2009
- Phase IV Letter of Agency Packet
- Draft Charter
- Network Nebraska Market Survey Report
- Network Nebraska Marketing Plan