

MERC Governing Board Meeting  
March 23, 2001  
Minutes

I. Standing Reports

A. MOREnet Update

1. Research & Development – Ben Colley explained that research & development is a MOREnet key deliverable in support of our customers. Last fall R & D was restructured to make it more focused with a special focus on project management to better manage resources, milestones, compress timelines and better reporting of results. Time is being spent on bandwidth management, voice over IP, broadband wireless, I2 K-20 Initiative. In the future, time will continue to be devoted to the above plus MPEG video, enhanced security, PKI, digital certificates and Ipv6. Colley asked members for input about what is being researched in their areas and if MOREnet can be of assistance. He encouraged the sharing of information so that all members can draw from other's experiences.
2. Video Services – Hank Niederhelm summarized the statistics on the number of classes over the last year. He reported that there was a 99% success rate, defined as the originating site being able to deliver the course. There were increases in the number of classes, ad hoc conferences, customers and H.323 users. Testing is underway for video scheduling software. Internal implementation is scheduled for mid to late March. He discussed the current supported technologies and reported that the future includes gatekeeper integration, enhancing directory services and H.320 to H.323 migration. Mitchell added that DESE ITV grants are only for H.323 technology.
3. Online Reference Resource Update – Tony Wening reported that Gale's Business and Company Resource Center to MOREnet's online reference resources available to all customers. The contracts with Ebsco and Grolier are being re-bid.
4. Legislative Update – Wening reported that MOREnet's request was for an increase of \$3.4 M in recurring funds. The Governor recommended \$1.6 in one-time funds and the House Budget Committee dropped all additional funding. The Senate will be considering the request soon.

B. MERC Update

1. Financial Report – Wening reported that, as previously agreed, the member service fee would increase 15% for the next year. A detailed financial report will be sent via email.
2. Expanding Internet2 to K-20 – Bill Mitchell reported that Internet2, led by over 180 U.S. universities, is working in partnership with industry and government to develop and deploy advanced network applications and technologies to take advantage of the fiber optic network for moving large data sets rapidly. The goal is to enable new generations of applications and enable current applications to move to new applications. Five states, including Missouri, have been

approved to open their state networks to Internet2. The I2 K-20 Initiative has been introduced by UCAID to develop Internet applications. Mitchell gave several examples of possible applications. He discussed MERC's role in this initiative .

- C. CBHE/CTI Update – Madeleine Kernen reported that Committee on Technology and Instruction met yesterday. It appears that funding for the Missouri Learners Network (cataloging effort of all higher education courses that are technically mediated) will likely receive \$50,00 from the legislature, less than the \$400,000 requested. Campus Technology Infrastructure is a one-time \$4.3 M request that will likely be approved. Virtual Associate of Arts Degree was not funded this year. Commission is asking for comments from MERC members on Long Range Planning.

## II. Old Business

- A. MERC Direction Document Discussion – Rick Mihalevich introduced members of the Executive Committee and asked all governing board members to introduce themselves. He emphasized the importance of the CTI and briefly described the relationship between MERC and CTI. He summarized that the refocusing of the consortium to higher education allows better direction. The discussion at the November Governing Board meeting generated a document (handout) that summarizes MERC's Purpose and Vision along with focus areas. He will send the document to all members for feedback. A MERC mid-year update is located at <http://www.more.net/projects/members/2000/fy01midyearexecsum.pdf>

## III. Action Items

- A. Executive Committee Election – Joe Rozman presented the slate of officers. Larry Onsager moved, Linda Bigelow seconded the motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. Motion passed by a show of hands. Rozman asked for nominations from the floor. Mark Mabe moved and Linda Bigelow seconded the motion to close nominations and accept the slate of officers by acclamation. Motion passed by a show of hands. Craig Klimczak expressed his appreciation to the board for electing him to the position of Chair Elect and assured the members that he would be open to feedback and guidance. Dave Imler, member-at-large, also expressed his appreciation and asked members to contact him to give input to the committee. Gordon Springer, member-at-large, asked members to become involved in the Internet2 project. Mihalevich thanked Larry Onsager for his contribution to the Executive Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Segarini, Recorder

