

MERC Governing Board Meeting
November 15, 2001
Ramada Inn, Columbia, Missouri
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chair Joe Rozman called the meeting to order by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Reports

MERC – Financial

Tony Wening distributed a financial report showing actual expenditures for MERC associated expenses. He reminded members that four years ago, the Governing Board approved a 15% increase in member service fees each year. An increase in the member service fee for FY03 is not anticipated. Factors that will influence an increase are state budgets, unanticipated telecommunication costs, etc. There is a request for funding to grow the network and for Internet access. A letter will be sent to all university presidents asking for support of the request. Backbone utilization is growing at a rate of 25% per semester. Additional backbone will be required to support the growth.

Wening praised the Network Support staff at MOREnet in working with vendors to diagnose the network problems. Support from customer sites in isolating the problems played a vital role in resolving the problems.

HELIX Conference information was distributed. He asked members to publicize the conference to colleagues

Appropriations request has been sent to CBHE and approved. The next step is for CBHE to submit the request to the Governor.

Network

Hank Niederhelm reported that the MOREnet3 network was deployed several years ago which included having OC3 backbone circuits connecting all of the hubs. All were implemented, except for the connection between Kansas City and Columbia. Two OC3 circuits are now in place between Kansas City and Columbia to facilitate Internet traffic and also for Internet2 traffic. There are three OC3 Internet circuits out of Kansas City and St. Louis, with capacity of 285 Mb out of both sides of the state. Utilization is between 50% and 60% of gross capacity. Network stability has been challenging due to several factors and staff are looking at ways to minimize network vulnerability and are working with vendors for a performance audit

CBHE/CTI

Nancy Devino reported that she is responsible for overseeing technology projects: MOREnet, MOBIUS, Missouri Learners Network and campus technology infrastructures. She oversaw budgets for each of these projects. She reported that it is unlikely that increases to budgets will be funded this year. There may also be additional withholding of funds for current projects. A CTI subcommittee is working on developing

a unified message about all of the technology budgets to educate campus leaders and other decision makers for support of budget requests. She also reported that Missouri Learners Network has moved to CBHE in August and has partnered with Missouri National Guard who also has interest in developing tools to enable access to education for military personnel. MLN will also be opened to the K-12 community. A proposal has been made for proprietary schools to receive MOREnet services. The board will make a decision in December.

Goals/Activities Work Session – Rozman reviewed progress to date and stated that the Goals and Activities formulated at last year’s brainstorming exercise were approved by electronic vote. Members formed two groups and prioritized goals, then discussed activities that could be planned to achieve those goals. Following is a summary of those discussions. This information will be used by MOREnet staff in their strategic planning sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Segarini, Recorder

MERC Governing Board Notes
What are we wanting to communicate?
Who is MOREnet?

Training

- Create advisory committee
- Market MOREnet services
- Communication Services
 - Banners
 - Videos (streaming)
 - Flyers

Services

- Advisory committees
 - What’s their role?
 - Who are they?
 - What do they do?
- Members with authority

Task force (with advisory committee)?

Enlarging advisory communications

Services

- Meetings – alternative methods
- Central source to share information
- Everyone has to play

Executive Committee

Can assign task to advisory committee or task force that reports solutions to Exec. Cmte with input from SME's

Communications

MOREnet gives and receives information from schools

1. Schools need to educate their advisory members to their roles – and communicate up within the school
 2. Get the right person involved with advisory group
 3. Involve more folks on campus
 4. Open lists up to more folks
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1. Fix advisory committees
 2. Statewide contracts/volume purchase agreements
 - a. Course managements software
 - b. Microsoft
 - c. Course management hosting
 3. Distance education training and support
 4. Streaming as a MOREnet service
 5. Establish global MERC discussion list.

Advisory Committees

Complacency

Not sure of role

Discussion lists

Information sharing among 4 committees

More involvement from MOREnet representative

Job description of members & chair

Role of MOREnet liaison not well defined

1. Collaboration (26)
 - Curricular partnerships
 - Libraries
 - With other representative groups
 - Database sharing
 - Grant opportunities
 - Distance Learning
 - Facility sharing/academic
 - Best practices
 - Software
2. Policy/Leadership (20)

- a. CIO Level
- b. Build collaboration
- c. Social club
- d. Advocacy – unified voice

Higher Education Practices (15)

Faculty information sharing

Technology issues

Resources

Information forum for faculty

Services (39)

Distance Education

Bandwidth and support

Security

Training

Library Databases

Teams reporting back to the large group had these observations:

What needs to be done?

Training

Volume Purchasing Agreements

Effectiveness of Advisory Committees

Best Practices - training of contact points