

Meeting #392
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
Videoconference Meeting
1800 No. 33rd Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
October 27, 2005

PRESENT: Commissioner Randy Bretz (videoconference-Lincoln site)
Commissioner Fred Brown (videoconference-Lincoln site)
Commissioner Stan Carpenter (videoconference-Wayne site)
Commissioner Ann Masters for Commissioner Doug Christensen
(videoconference-Lincoln site)
Commissioner John Heil (videoconference-Omaha site)
Commissioner Mike Kneale (videoconference-Lincoln site)
Commissioner Paul McIntosh (videoconference-Norfolk site)
Commissioner Dara Troutman (videoconference-Lincoln site)

ABSENT: Commissioner Bill Griffin
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh
Commissioner Ann Pickel

Advance notice of the public meeting was sent to Nebraska news media by means of a news release forwarded from the Commission office with Agenda posted in the NET Lobby, NET elevator bulletin board and on the State and NET web sites.

Vice Chairman Kneale called meeting #392 to order at 9:30 a.m.

After the call of the roll, the Secretary determined a duly constituted quorum of Commissioners to be present.

It was moved by Bretz and seconded by Brown to approve minutes of Meeting #391 as distributed. Roll call vote for approval of minutes #391 was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Fred Brown	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Ann Masters	- aye
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- absent
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Mike Kneale	- aye
Commissioner Paul McIntosh	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- absent
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- aye

The Vice Chairman called for public comment. There was none.

UNO Television Manager Debbi Aliano reported on activities and programs at the UNO Television/Omaha Production Center

Assistant General Manager-Content Development David Feingold reviewed activities of Nebraska public radio and television including future production activities. He indicated that NET radio just completed their on-air membership drive and raised a total of \$144,580, with 567 new members and 575 renewing members. He also reported on the *Rx for Kids: A Nebraska Connects* special and PBS' *By the People* project that was conducted in Kearney to discuss K-12 educational issues. NET Television is one of 16 Public Broadcasting Service stations selected to host these discussions as part of the *By The People* project, a local-national initiative of MacNeil/Lehrer Productions. Mr. Feingold indicated that he, Ray Dilley and Michael Winkle met with UNO Vice Chancellor John Christensen, Dean Robert Welk and KVNO station manager Debbi Aliano to discuss opportunities presented by changes in the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Community Service Grant (CPB-CSG) process. CPB has now formally invited NET Radio, KVNO and KIOS to participate in the pilot of the new CSG Formulae. NET 3, the life-long learning channel will be undergoing a major revamping next year when PBS discontinues PBSYou, NET's major programming source for this digital multicast channel. NET 3 will become a fulltime "how-to" channel.

Assistant General Manager-Administration & Finance Hansen reviewed the DTV project expenditures through September 30, 2005. It was moved by Bretz and seconded by Troutman to approve the acquisitions of items from July 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005 related to the DTV project totaling \$327,323. It is further recommended that the Commission approve pending acquisitions related to the DTV Project, as represented by the listings of Outstanding Purchases Orders totaling \$683,327. Following discussion, roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Fred Brown	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Ann Masters	- aye
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- absent
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Mike Kneale	- aye
Commissioner Paul McIntosh	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- absent
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- aye

Assistant General Manager-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen presented the 1st quarter budget report for period ending September 30, 2005 for both the Television and Radio Divisions. Following discussion, it was moved by Masters and seconded by Troutman to approve the 1st quarter budget reports as presented and attached to the minutes. Roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Fred Brown	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Ann Masters	- aye
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- absent
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Mike Kneale	- aye
Commissioner Paul McIntosh	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- absent
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- aye

Assistant General Manager-Administration & Finance Hansen gave a building renovation project update for the Terry M. Carpenter Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center including a quarterly status report of construction projects.

Assistant General Manager-Administration & Finance Hansen next presented the Commission's deficit funding requests for the current fiscal year for consideration by the Governor and Unicameral. The proposed deficit requests are: 1) increased utility costs for Carpenter Center - \$28,325; 2) closed captioning operating costs - \$22,933; 3) closed captioning one-time equipment costs - \$7,800; and, 4) LB 1092 depreciation charge of \$2,500 (billed July 1, 2006). These requests will all require new General Fund appropriations. Following discussion, it was moved by Brown and seconded by Kneale to approve submission of the proposed deficit requests as presented. This needs to be sent to the DAS Budget Office by October 28, 2005. Roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- nay
Commissioner Fred Brown	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Ann Masters	- abstained
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- absent
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Mike Kneale	- aye
Commissioner Paul McIntosh	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- absent
Commissioner Dara Troutman	- nay

Motion failed.

It was moved by Troutman and seconded by Brown to consider the deficit request via three separate votes: 1) increased utility costs; 2) closed captioning operating costs & one time equipment costs; and, 3) LB 1092 depreciation charge of \$2,500. Following discussion, Commissioner Troutman withdrew the motion.

It was moved by Troutman and seconded by Kneale that the previous vote be reconsidered and recommended approval of submission to the DAS Budget Office of the proposed deficit request as proposed. The proposed deficit requests are: 1) increased utility costs for Carpenter Center - \$28,325; 2) closed captioning operating costs - \$22,933; 3) closed captioning one-time equipment costs - \$7,800; and, 4) LB 1092 depreciation charge of \$2,500 (billed July 1, 2006). These requests will all require new General Fund appropriations. Roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Commissioner Randy Bretz	- aye
Commissioner Fred Brown	- aye
Commissioner Stan Carpenter	- aye
Commissioner Ann Masters	- abstained
Commissioner Bill Griffin	- absent
Commissioner Mary Harbaugh	- absent
Commissioner John Heil	- aye
Commissioner Mike Kneale	- aye
Commissioner Paul McIntosh	- aye
Commissioner Ann Pickel	- absent

Motion carried.

Secretary Bates requested a report from Commissioner Heil on LB 689. He indicated that the Distance Education Task force met and defined the focus of LB 689 would be updating and renewing synchronization of distance learning for classrooms, particularly in rural districts. ESU's of Nebraska will supervise this process. The primary issue at this time is how it will be funded.

Secretary Bates indicated that his six-year term as a member of the PBS Board of Directors has now ended although he will continue to co-chair the Search Committee for a new President of PBS. He also reported on the OSBE (Organization of State Broadcasting Executives) Fall Conference that was held in Lincoln, October 16-18. Secretary Bates expressed his appreciation to NET staff that were involved in making this a successful conference. He said he has received a lot of positive feedback from station general managers who were very impressed with the NET facility.

It was decided not to move into executive session due to technical difficulties in uplink of videoconference sites.

The Vice Chairman called for old business. Commissioners requested information regarding the federal funding issues related to public broadcasting. General Manager Bates reminded Commissioners that the NETC is not permitted to lobby. However, if individual Commissioners wished to contact Nebraska Congressional representatives it was up to them. Nebraska could lose \$3 million if funding is not continued for public broadcasting.

Vice Chairman Kneale next called for new business. There was none. The next NETC meeting will be a videoconference meeting to be held December 1 at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, meeting #392 adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Bates,
Secretary

Attachment