

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

March 16, 2011
Room 144—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Joe McLeland, Chairperson
Senator Mike Petersen, Vice-chairperson
Senator Marci Francisco
Senator Tom Holland
Senator Garrett Love
Senator Vicki Schmidt
Representative Mike Burgess
Representative Terry Calloway
Representative Nile Dillmore

Member Absent

Representative Harold Lane

Staff Present

Aaron Klaassen, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shirley Morrow, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Don Heiman, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees

Don Heiman, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer
Dave Larson, Director, Computer Services, Legislative Administrative Services

Others Attending

See attached sheet.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and welcomed Dave Larson, Director, Computer Services, Legislative Administrative Services. Mr. Larson reviewed recent staff activities on the Kansas Legislative Information Systems and Services (KLISS). He commented

on the ten work priorities and referenced the deliverables still in process (Attachment 1). He also referenced the status of the KLISS software application and the KLISS infrastructure (Attachment 2).

Don Heiman, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer, reviewed progress on KLISS since the previous JCIT meeting (Attachment 3). He noted the importance of the reporting system that tracks severity levels for problems in the system, provided details and dates on completed items, and listed statistics regarding the legislative website (e.g., February 11 to March 13 recorded 130,323 visits; the average time on the site was 5.3 minutes; there were 46,751 unique visitors). He commented on several of the work priorities from Attachment 1, and he reiterated the need for additional staff when vendor Propylon completes its work.

Members expressed concern regarding the failure of the delta system to provide timely amendments to bills during floor debate. Val Carter, Information Technology support for the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that inexperienced staff and a system inadequately tested have forced the revisors to create manual workarounds in order to create the amendments for legislators. She stated that the system's complexities randomly produce inaccurate or incomplete information when trying to merge the amendment with the original bill. Members expressed further frustration and questioned the original timing of the project. Mr. Heiman explained that the decision of the steering committee to go forward was made on November 18, and he acknowledged that the timeline for the project was tight. He stated that a shortage of staff and the unexpected need to build a new interface resulted in limited time for thorough testing.

The Committee agreed with a member who, referencing item #5 of Attachment 1, suggested that members alert the House and Senate budget committees to the need for funding to provide ongoing support for KLISS. Mr. Heiman said he would provide budget information to members. The Kansas Department of Labor's progress report on the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Project was delayed until the next meeting. March 30 was the date suggested for the next meeting. No firm decision was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 a.m.

Prepared by Gary Deeter
Edited by Aaron Klaassen and Julian Efird

Approved by the Committee on:

March 30, 2011

(Date)