

## MINUTES

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

January 19, 2012  
Room 144-S—Statehouse

#### Members Present

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

#### Staff Present

Aaron Klaassen, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

#### Conferees

Scott Frank, Auditor, Legislative Post Audit  
Jim Miller, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer

#### Others Attending

See attached sheet.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order. He announced that Representative Burgess had recently become a Certified Information Technology (IT) Project Manager.

The Chairperson opened the meeting for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Information Technology (JCIT) for CY 2012. *Representative Burgess nominated Senator Petersen. The nomination was seconded by Senator Schmidt and unanimously passed.*

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Audit, provided background information on IT systems-implementation audits as an introduction to SB 254 - Providing for information technology audits (Attachment 1). He commented that, despite oversight by project managers and branch CITO's (Chief Information Technology Officers), some recent projects have run behind schedule, over budget, or have failed to deliver expected functionality. Noting that nationally such lapses are not uncommon, he explained that two states—Colorado and Virginia—have instituted

continuous audits of ongoing projects (known as systems-development audits) with the goal of identifying project problems early in development in order to avoid a cascading effect that results in project failure.

Mr. Frank then explained the provisions of SB 254. The bill will provide more immediate feedback to the project principals in order to reduce incremental project delays. He said the bill can be implemented within available resources by hiring an IT specialist to work with experienced in-house auditors. Initially, a few critical projects would be selected to implement the provisions of the bill.

Members queried Mr. Frank; he provided the following answers:

- There would be no change in the current structure. Post Audit will simply provide added and more timely information;
- Under the current system of CITO's, agencies are self-reporting. The proposed audits will provide an independent evaluation of projects.
- The Virginia model allows the CITO-equivalents and the auditors to work cooperatively;
- The intention of the bill is to supplement, not supplant, oversight; and
- The problem-identification process will begin by notifying agency management of a problem. If that does not elicit a positive response, the CITO's and JCIT will be notified. The bill gives no authority to Post Audit other than notification of principals.

Members offered a number of comments related to the proposed bill:

- There is no evidence that another layer of oversight will reduce project problems;
- Project problems often are caused by poorly designed RFPs (Requests for Proposal). Project managers are discovering that designing entire systems under one vendor often creates endemic problems;
- Better control over RFPs will obviate design problems, and more aggressive supervision of projects will help projects succeed;
- Our present system works well. A more pressing issue is IT security; and
- The present system includes a report from the Project Management Office on "lessons learned."

Jim Miller, Legislative CITO, provided an update of Kansas Legislative Information Systems and Services (KLISS), a report which includes the present status of KLISS and supporting material illustrating the current environment ([Attachment 2](#)). He stated that, in preparation for the 2012 Session, several lists of priorities were consolidated into one list. Having one list facilitated the integrating of system functionality. End-to-end testing completed

the process. He noted that one of the most challenging problems has been integrating style and formatting so that the electronic information parallels the printed information in form as well as substance.

Mr. Miller responded to members' questions:

- Working with Propylon has gone well. The vendor is living up to current expectations and is now thoroughly testing code before implementing it;
- Integrating KLISS with other applications is always a challenge. The IRC (International Role Call) voting board is now working well;
- Senior staff have been exceptionally effective, especially in providing training for session employees;
- Going forward, there will be the ability to address most issues thoroughly. Two areas continue to be challenges: the composition-to-printing process needs further work, partly because of the limitations of Open Office; and search capability needs more functionality;
- The current to-do list will be completed in CY 2012. However, Propylon's contract ends in September 2012. Propylon is currently being paid \$60,000 per month; and
- The map/gap analysis identifies some open staff positions. A recommendation addressing staffing needs will be presented in a few weeks.

The Chairperson opened nominations for Vice-chairperson for CY 2012. *Representative McLeland nominated Representative Burgess. Senator Schmidt seconded the nomination, which then passed unanimously.*

Members discussed dates for future meetings, but no decisions were made. The meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Gary Deeter  
Edited by Aaron Klaassen

Approved by the Committee on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
February 28, 2012  
(Date)