

## **Technology Management Plan (TMP) for State Colleges and Universities**

### **Stakeholders:**

This plan has been developed through collaboration with the Satellite Network of West Virginia (SATNET), the WV Higher Education Instructional Television Consortium (WVHEITV), the newly established WV Virtual Learning Network (WVVLN), the West Virginia Network for Educational Telecomputing (WVNET), and the Distance Learning Coordinating Council (DLCC).

### **Scope of Effort:**

A technology management plan is called for in Senate Bill 653 in section 18B-1B-4. The purpose of the plan is to assist colleges and universities in focusing technology issues into a planning-review effort which ensures that adequate human and technical resources exist to fulfill the various institutional missions.

### **Executive Summary:**

Technology efforts at the various campuses need to be derived from central planning. This means that institutions should develop multi-year technology plans with annual updates. These plans are based upon an analysis of services rendered, services needed, and an analysis of best practices. They are also based upon collaborative models where constituent groups assist in developing the plans.

These plans are to be submitted each June to the Central Office of the WV Higher Education Policy Commission and to the Governor's Office of Technology (GOT). These plans are reviewed by the Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Technology and presented to GOT staff.

In addition, the WV Virtual Learning Network serves as a vehicle by which college and university members of the network can plan and implement distance learning degree programs and courses. Funds budgeted to SATNET and HEITV are used to select courses and programs which will be delivered across the state, region, and nation. This includes Southern Regional Education Board Electronic Campus courses and independently developed courses and programs (such as the statewide Information Technology program). Also, network members develop state policies used to implement these programs and courses. Issues which arise in this body can be taken to the DLCC which crosses all educational and broadcast agencies and reports annually to the WV Legislature.

Finally, WVNET is charged with assisting higher education and state agencies with networking, data, and information technology services. Its constitutional structure provides its members various arenas by which they may discuss issues which may be brought to the WVNET Policy Board. This governing body makes policy decisions for WVNET and consists of members from various constituent groups.

Thus, technology is managed within higher education by a combination of annual technology plan submission and review and several organizations which coordinate both distance learning and information technology activities.

**Vision:**

The vision of the WV Higher Education Policy Commission is that institutions will utilize the planning process and the supporting agencies to assist them in focusing their technology efforts in order to ensure that plans are current, technology is relevant to need, and collaboration is available across agencies and institutions.

**Goals:**

1. To provide the HEPC with a mechanism for reviewing institutional technology plans.
2. To assist institutions in developing long range technology plans in the context of annual institutional planning.
3. To adhere to policies established by the Governor's Office of Technology regarding standardization.
4. To utilize higher education networks to facilitate collaboration and shared decision-making.
5. To assist institutions in planning for the integration of technology into the teaching and learning process.
6. To provide institutions a model wherein collaboration across network agencies results in improved planning, resource sharing, and cost savings.

**Objectives:**

1. To collect, review, and analyze all institutional technology plans annually.
2. To provide feedback to institutions regarding the planning process in relation to institutional missions and instructional and information technology needs assessments.
3. To develop nationally recognized distance learning degree programs utilizing SATNET, HEITV, the Public Broadcasting Service's Going the Distance Project, the Southern Regional Education Board Electronic Campus degrees and courses, and institution-specific Web courses developed by institutional faculty around program-specific needs.
4. To develop a bonafide statewide distance learning network which allows each higher education institution to connect to the other across common platforms and protocols.

5. To develop a common college and university finance package which interfaces with a common student information system with a common set of data set definitions.
6. To develop a central one stop shop Web site where students can shop, register, and browse for distance learning classes offered by West Virginia higher education institutions.
7. To assist WVNET and state higher education institutions in developing a working video conferencing network easily available to all institutions and the Central Office.

**Assessment:**

Each of the objectives above will be measured using different benchmarks. Objectives 1 and 2 will be measured by the submission of institutional technology plans, review of same, and successful presentation to the GOT staff. A major part of this effort will be communicating with institutions concerning the development and implementation of their plans.

Objective 3 will be a year long effort to develop the new distance learning organization using as a primary funding source SATNET funds to manage both entities. Benchmarks include accepting a constitution and by-laws, hiring an administrative assistant, developing policies to merge SATNET and WVVLN, developing policies to strike a balance between the needs of the Going the Distance project and the statewide HEITV needs, policies regarding the increased use of SREB electronic campus courses, common registration, a common Web site, and policies on the appropriate utilization of technology to the task at hand.

A benchmark for objective 4 is the actual number of institutions which can successfully connect to one another by interactive video with good production values foremost in mind.

A benchmark for objective 5 is the successful launch of the SCT Banner Finance module at the pilot institutions followed by other pioneer institutions.

Objective 6 can be assessed by having a successful one stop shop Web site available within the next 12-18 months.

Objective 7 can be assessed by noting the number of institutions which have video conferencing connectivity which works successfully within the next 12-18 months.

**Budget:**

Distance learning activities will take place within the context of the WV Virtual Learning Network, SATNET, and HEITV and will utilize the existing SATNET budget and the HEITV budget. The Web site will also be developed using the SATNET budget.

A successful interactive video network and a working video conferencing network will need funding

from both the institutions to purchase the end-site components, from WVNET in some cases to provide bandwidth through the WV State Unified Network, and from continued Legislative support for the 2001 ATM Project.

The Banner Finance and Banner Student Information System efforts are being budgeted by the Central Office and the institutions jointly.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A: SATNET Policy: <http://www.wvnet.edu/~satnet>

Appendix B: WVVLN Draft Constitution  
<http://www.hepc.wvnet.edu/distance/AppendixB-WVVLNConst.PDF>

Appendix C: WVNET Governance Document: <http://www.wvnet.edu/govern.shtml>