

**Minutes of the  
Commission for Educational Technology**

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

2 – 4 P.M.

101 East River Drive

East Hartford, Connecticut

Members Present:      Rock Regan; Cal Heminway; Leslie Averna; Valerie Lewis; Patricia Fusco; Ken Wiggin; Merle Harris; Paul Picard; William Cibes; Marc Herzog; Judith Greiman; George Selmont and Nancy Cetorelli.

Others Participating:   Michael Helfgott, CET Executive Director; and Rob Vietzke, Uconn/DOIT.

Ms. Greiman called the Special Meeting to order at 2:09 P.M.

Mr. Helfgott affirmed that he had placed a Notice of the Special Meeting with the Office of the Secretary of State. The purpose of the meeting was “to discuss the Governor’s budget proposals, as they pertain to the Commission and its members, and to take any necessary action.”

There was an itemization of the relevant proposals in the budget for the benefit of those at the meeting:

1.     The proposed budget included no dollars for the Commission for Educational Technology
2.     iCONN was funded adequately, but there was accompanying language stressing the need to eliminate duplication
3.     The CTDLC would receive approximately half of what it requested, if the proposal is accepted
4.     The CEN was in good shape, with the Governor offering \$5 million per each of the two years in bonding

There was a lengthy discussion of the options before the Commission. The consensus was to adopt as the highest priority the continuation of the Commission. The failure of its predecessor, JCET, was sited as the best reason to continue the work and to maintain the momentum of the Commission and the activities it had spawned. It was strongly felt that JCET’s failure was due to there not being an independent, credible and dedicated voice for a statewide, unified educational technology initiative, and that the Commission had admirably filled the void.

There was agreement on the following:

1.     The Commission would seek to have its funding restored
2.     Mr. Helfgott would prepare additional materials to be used before the legislature
3.     Members of the Commission would be asked to communicate the Commission’s position to their appointing authorities, to individual legislators, and to the sub-committees of the Appropriations Committee

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:44 P.M.