

March 28, 1985

Approved

Jayne Aylward  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

The meeting was called to order by Representative Jayne Aylward at  
Chairperson

3:30 ~~xm~~p.m. on March 19, 1985 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Helgerson (excused)  
Representative Shore (excused)

Committee staff present:

Ray Hauke, Research Department  
James A. Wilson, III, Senior Assistant Revisor  
Jean Mellinger, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Ray L. Steele, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Chairman Jayne Aylward opened the meeting.

Dr. Steele discussed the experiences of the University of Pittsburgh in installing a new telecommunication system called the "Campus of the Future." They started with a few automated systems and a poor telephone system that had just been affected by divestiture. They formed an integrated committee, then charted through a little scoping technique, a mini-needs assessment from the users not the bosses or directors. The responses indicated they needed four things, an integrated campus distribution system; to stop all local area networks from growing--get a master local area network approach; to stop the phone service costs from escalating; and a video system. They had to have an open system that would guarantee that a lot of different machinery would work together in a system they created. Computing, library, telephone, video, academic--all the people who have to make it work were on the committee; and they looked at it in terms of making the whole project work. They got a fiber optic backbone system connecting 55 buildings over 125 acres which eventually will connect the four regional campuses that are as far away as 200 miles. The second thing was a telephone system, a System 85 Release 2--a distributive system that could grow. They distributed the switch--a central switch and about seven different modules distributed about the campus. They got the information system network which again is an AT&T open architecture base product. The last piece was the video piece with 400 rooms on campus which could be accessed and 60 sources to go from to access those rooms. With the right architecture in and the right strategic plan, they ended up being able to build on it as needs arise. They financed the entire thing through a bonding approach, and all the systems end up saving them millions of dollars as opposed to the telephone system cost in 1983. It is a workable system and it is an opportunity to grown in the future.

Representative Friedeman asked concerning closed system and open system. Dr. Steele replied that closed ended means that you can only use one company's equipment--IBM has a close ended system for the most part.

Representative Friedeman asked about the wiring. Dr. Steele said you could use the telephone copper wire that is currently from your desk to a closet and down the shaft that goes to the basement you put some fiber in and between the buildings you put in some fiber which allows you to get onto the network for information and communication, but you need all fiber to get to the video network.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 1985.