Minutes of the
Commission for Educational Technology

Tuesday, September 11, 2001
9 AM – 12 PM
Legislative Office Building - Room 1A

Members Present: Judith Greiman; Merle Harris; Louis Hernandez;
                          George Selmont; Rock Regan; Cal Heminway; Peter Young;
                          Theodore Sergi; Denise Moynihan; Michele Macauda; Valerie Lewis;
                          Paul Kobulnicky; Ken Wiggin

Others Present: Michael Helfgott, Executive Director; Rob Vietzke, DOIT; Bob Dixon, DOIT

Ms. Greiman called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

She introduced Mr. Michael Helfgott, the Commission's new Executive Director and reviewed his background with the members. She expressed thanks to the Office of Policy and Management and to Wayne Seabury and Steve Shapiro of DOIT for their help during the search and hiring processes.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Greiman sought and received permission from the Commission to allow Mr. Helfgott begin by giving an Executive Director's report.

Mr. Helfgott thanked the Commission for its selection of him and expressed his eagerness to join with them in their important work. He thanked Mr. Regan for making him feel welcome on a day-to-day basis, particularly because of the importance of a good working relationship between the Commission and DOIT. He also expressed his gratitude to former Executive Director Karen Kaplan for her leadership and for helping to assure a smooth transition.

Mr. Helfgott reiterated much of what he had observed during the interview process: that is, of the importance of the budget, the e-rate process, and network content to the success of the Commission's work. But his short time on the job had convinced him that the biggest challenge would be to develop an easily understood, relevant message that would justify the investment that State was being asked to make in the Commission's agenda. He suggested success would come if the Commission could clearly answer questions about the network and its support: How would it improve teaching and learning? How would it increase workforce competitiveness? How would it reduce the digital divide? How would it achieve economies of scale?

Bylaws Approval

Ms. Greiman began the discussion of the Bylaws by reviewing the input that had been received from the Members and by suggesting that the Commission work from a compilation document that she had put together. She asked Mr. Helfgott to guide the members through the documents and the discussion.

The Bylaws were reviewed, with Articles X (Staff), XI (Committees, etc.), and XIII (Conflicts of Interest) receiving comments. The purpose of an Executive Committee (Article XIV) received the most discussion and questions. Those in favor of having an Executive Committee stressed the need to have a body act on behalf of the full Commission between meetings. Arguments against its existence stressed its lack of statutory authority. Mr. Sergi suggested deleting the Executive Committee provision, noting that the Commission could, at a future meeting, add the Article by a two-thirds vote.

<u>Bylaws Approval</u>   (Continued)

Other items mentioned but not acted on during the Executive Committee discussion included: references to electronic meetings or votes; the lack of mention of Standing Committees; the need to get the Commission's work on a calendar schedule; and the protocol for proxies.

Ms. Greiman asked the Commission Members to vote for the adoption of Bylaws as written but with the removal of Article XIV – Executive Committee.   A motion to do so was seconded and approved unanimously.

<u>CEN Update</u>

The meeting was interrupted just as Mr. Dixon and Mr. Vietzke were to give the CEN Update. Following a short break, during which the Commission learned of the attacks on the World Trade Centers, a motion was made, received a second, and was approved, to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 AM.