Call for Nominations: ACUTA Board of Directors 1999-2000

Margie Milone, Kent State University
Chair, ACUTA Nominating Committee

Each year at this time, the Chair of the Nominating Committee issues a call for nominations for ACUTA’s Board of Directors. Our governance structure calls for us to elect four positions each year: President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and two Directors-at-Large. Nominations will be accepted for the following:

President-Elect: As stated in the Bylaws (Article III, Sect. A6), “Candidates for the office of President-Elect must have served as a member of the Board of Directors for a minimum of one year, or served as the Chair of a permanent committee for a minimum of one year.” Nominees for this position must also be prepared to serve the following two years as President and Immediate Past President, as stated in the Bylaws.

Secretary/Treasurer: This is a one-year position. Since the Secretary/Treasurer may serve two consecutive terms, Linda Bogden-Stubbs of SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse is eligible to run for re-election if she chooses.

Directors-at-Large: Two positions shall be elected each year for two-year terms. The Nominating Committee will assemble a slate of nominees from names submitted by the membership. The two candidates receiving the most votes will be declared the winners. The Directors-at-Large whose terms expire this year are Marianne Landfair of Indiana University and Dawn Lotz of Marquette University. Having served two consecutive terms already, Marianne is not eligible for a third term. Dawn, who was elected in ‘97, may choose to run for re-election.

Current President Buck Bayliff, Wake Forest University, becomes Immediate Past President, and President-Elect Tony Mordosky of Bradley University becomes President for ‘99-’00.

Any institutional ACUTA member may submit nominations for the offices of President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Director-at-Large. However, any individual nominated should be aware of the considerable commitment to carry out the responsibilities of the office. The individual’s institution must also be prepared to support such a commitment.

Per Article III, Sections A2 and B2 of the Bylaws, nominees must be either a primary or associate representative of an Institutional Member.

Nominees will be contacted to discuss the duties and responsibilities associated with the position and their ability to fulfill those obligations, and to answer any questions the nominee may have.

Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. CDT, April 9, 1999. Send all nominations to: Margie Milone, Manager, Telephone Communications, Kent State University, Office Supply Center, Kent, OH 44242 or e-mail mmilone@kent.edu.

Phone nominations will not be accepted. All elections will be done by mail ballot to provide all voting members an opportunity to participate in the selection of ACUTA’s leadership.
Levine, McDonald to Speak at Seminars

ACUTA announces two additional speakers for the Spring Seminars April 18–21. Hank Levine, partner with the Washington law firm of Levine, Blaszak, Block and Boothby, will share his experience and expertise in a presentation entitled “Working Successfully with Alternative Carriers, Facilities-Based Carriers, and Resellers.” Levine has been cited for his unique expertise, knowledge, and savvy in dealing with the pricing, terms, and conditions that shape custom network contracts.

Laura F. H. McDonald, also with Levine, Blaszak, Block and Boothby, will present “The Pros and Cons of Becoming a CLEC.” Ms. McDonald has assisted large users in the negotiation of network service agreements and represented new telecom firms in regulatory proceedings that grow out of their entry into the field and in the negotiation and arbitration of interconnection agreements with incumbent LECs.

For more information or to register, visit the Web site at www.acuta.org/html/alexandria.html.

Michael Palladino
University of Pennsylvania

Telecommunications professionals face many challenges. It is very important for us to know the current state of our networks and services, where we would like them to be in 3 to 5 years, and any obstacles that may be in our way. To that end, the Networking Group of the University of Pennsylvania has written a technical white paper called PennNet21. This document discusses how Penn may redesign its campus communications network and services for the 21st century. (The document is available at www.isc-net.upenn.edu/PennNet-21/p21-contents.html)

PennNet21 is broken down into 10 sections discussing topics from Applications and Services to Physical Wiring and Infrastructure. Section 3 is a discussion of Converged Networks written by Deke Kassabian, IT Director of Network Engineering, Systems and Services. (www.isc-net.upenn.edu/PennNet-21/p21-contents.html)

Today’s data networks are generally separate from voice networks and video networks. This is probably the case for a variety of reasons, including the fact that the different services make different demands of their underlying network and because they were developed at different times and offered as services by different groups of people.

A converged network is shared by voice, data, and video traffic on a large scale. The idea of convergence could be extended to include other possible traffic types for remote control or monitoring of non-data network devices or the handling of data used in shared virtual reality applications.

We are all somewhat aware of these ideas and the technical challenges we will face as we plan and design networks capable of handling data, voice, and video traffic over a single cable plant. However, there are other obstacles to overcome at our institutions before we will be able to do this. For instance, data, voice, and video departments are sometimes run by different organizations, and have separate reporting structures and, frequently, unique missions. This can get further complicated at a large institution where some schools manage their own networks.

The University of Pennsylvania faces even more complexity because the Health System has and manages its own data, voice, and video networks. Before Penn can discuss real convergence, we must bring together six groups managed by four separate entities: Health System Data and Voice, Health System Telecommunications, Penn Telecommunications, and Penn Data and Video.

At the ACUTA Spring Seminar you can hear more about what Penn has done to position itself for convergence in the face of these obstacles. We will discuss organizational and political aspects of convergence and explore looking for opportunities, starting coalitions and close working relationships, doing joint purchasing, strategic planning, and more.

Network Challenges for the 21st Century

President’s Message

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Thinking politically, this is also that time of year when we issue the call for nominations for our Board of Directors. I challenge each of you to ask yourself, “Is this the year I run for a position of leadership in ACUTA?” A few years ago, we underwent governance change to set in motion the succession of positions and ensure that new faces had the opportunity to participate in leadership. Its continued success will only be ensured if you take that important step and come forward.

At our meeting in New Orleans, I asked a young man from the Midwest how he ended up living there. After an interesting story, he said, “If all you ever do is think about it, you’ll never do it.” I hope you will become more involved in your organization. You will cherish the rewards forever.

Stay in touch...
A company wants to install a PCS antenna on top of one of our buildings.

1. What is the policy of your institution regarding the installation of antenna(s) on your buildings by an outside company?
2. What should I include in any contract/agreement?

—Ken Leverington, Univ. of Arkansas

Anne Apicella, Univ. of New Mexico:
We have two cellular carrier antenna installations on campus, and installation of an antenna repeater is pending. Each installation is slightly different, but all have been successful for us.

The first was installed on top of our fine arts center in 1995. Before we allowed them to install the antenna, we checked with all the other cellular carriers to find out if anyone else also wanted to position an antenna at the same site. No one else did. The carrier produced photo simulations of the installation so we could obtain prior approval from the university architect and others who were concerned about the aesthetics. The carrier made the antenna arrays look like canales (water spouts), which is a typical architectural feature on southwestern adobe-style buildings. Their common equipment was installed in a small building addition added by the carrier. We submeter the power, read the meter each month, and bill them accordingly. They also pay rent for the use of our property.

The second antenna was installed late last year by the local PCS vendor. They installed the actual antenna array on an existing power company pole in public right-of-way next to my building. You have to look hard to see it. They installed their common equipment behind an adobe-style wall adjacent to my building. They draw their power from the service on the utility pole, so we don’t have a metering issue. They pay us handsome rent for their walled equipment area.

We are currently processing a request from this same carrier to install a repeater on top of our chemistry building. They have submitted photo simulations of the installation, which will look like a small addition on existing duct work. The power consumption of the repeater is negligible, so we have just figured out our fee per KWH and have added it to the monthly lease rate. They will pay us the same handsome rent for use of the rooftop space.

This has been a successful venture for us, and it provides a healthy income stream. They are welcome tenants. As a plus, the antennas boost the cellular signal for users on campus.

As a state institution, our biggest concern was the contract terms and conditions. We have used a standard lease agreement for all the installations.

A few suggestions:
1. Have the carrier show you photo simulations before approving the installation. This will give you assurance that the installation won’t be discordant with your institution’s architecture.
2. Don’t give anything away. Make sure they compensate you for all expenses (i.e., power) and use of your property.
3. Don’t lock yourself into too long a term. Give yourself an opportunity to renew at reasonable intervals. The carriers want to lock you in forever because they want to protect their investment, but the institution may need to do something else with its real estate assets in the future, so you need a way out.
4. Try to ensure the carrier has direct access to their facilities so they don’t have to have keys to your buildings or bother others to access their equipment for maintenance.

Ed Lear, Northern Kentucky Univ.: We are a state university. Last year when we had that request, I was told by legal to refer them to the State. Since we cannot discriminate, if we do it for one, we may be required to do it for all. We never got a call back.

Jack Canavera, St. Louis Comm. College: A major issue we would be concerned with would be the visual appearance of the proposed antenna and how it fits with the building or campus image. I would be concerned about issues of power, generators etc. that the PCS supplier would need. I also would be concerned about RF issues. Will it be safe to go up on the roof when the broadcast antenna is operating? Will the structure of the antenna allow you to mount additional college equipment on it? (Microwave, campus two-way, etc.) Can you get income plus free cellular service from the company? Will the antenna possibly block a line of sight? (We had to consider the campus observatory). Are you considering a perpetual type of agreement or does the PCS company have the right to match another offer at the end of your contract term?

Dave Barta, Univ. of Oregon: We have only one tall building but it’s strategically placed, from a cell/pcs perspective. We have one provider’s site located there now and are finalizing contracts with another. In doing this we’ve looked at other potential uses for that building and allocated space accordingly. After that we’ve determined how much space is left and how many cell sites that will accommodate. That is written down and the space available on a first-come, first-served basis. It’s important to have it written so that the company who comes for space after the last site is already rented can’t complain that we’re being arbitrary. Bear in mind that this isn’t just a question of square footage for siting transmitters and receivers. Antennas need a certain amount of vertical or horizontal clearance from each other and this can be a bigger challenge than square feet.

Make sure that existing users are protected from interference from new users, and that if someone develops a problem impacting others (new or old user) you have the leverage to require them to fix it quickly or be shut down. Also bear in mind that managing a multi-frequency RF site will require some RF knowledge, either in-house or contracted. You’ll have to do studies of interference from remodulation, and other things. For your effort, make sure you’re getting enough money. Drive a hard bargain because this is a real hassle.

Gary Pelton, Univ. at Albany, SUNY: At the University at Albany, State Univ of NY, we have 4 dormitory towers, each 23 floors. I expect to have lots of interest in using these towers for antenna locations. One major concern is security. We simply cannot have anyone with free access to the dorms. This may severely limit any use of these towers for commercial use of any kind.
The Board of Directors met by conference call on January 7, 1999. The following are highlights of that call:

- Committees will be submitting Research and Development requests for new services and programs for consideration in the 1999-00 budget.
- The Board approved a recommendation from the Staff Event Promotion Team for a "Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back" commitment on all ACUTA conferences and seminars beginning this Spring.
- A business plan for development of new educational programs, prepared by the Manager of Professional Development, is being reviewed by the Board and the Program Committee.
- Under direction from the Board, the Executive Director is investigating the feasibility and associated costs for professional services to assist in the monitoring of regulatory/legislative issues from the FCC, Congress, and other agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bogden-Stubb
SUNY Health Science Center
ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer

Distance Ed Institutes

The Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications has announced two Management for Distance Education Institutes: April 19-23 in Princeton, NJ, and July 26-30 in Breckenridge, CO. The Institute brings together individuals working in the field of distance education to identify ways of managing educational telecommunications. During the week, participants work with other practitioners and learn from national experts about current issues facing the field.

For more details, visit the Web site at www.wiche.edu/telecom/events/99mde.htm or call Leigh Smith at 303/541-0310.

On the heels of a successful Winter Seminar in New Orleans, planning is well underway for the final ACUTA Annual Conference of this century. In the exciting setting of the Opryland Hotel, ACUTA members will be treated to a wide array of programs that are on target with the educational needs expressed in our recent Member Needs Assessment survey.

The top two topics you most requested in the survey were voice over IP and legislative/regulatory issues. (Voice over IP will also be a major focus at the Spring Seminar in Alexandria, VA April 18-21.) The other topics that were frequently cited were introduction to telecommunications/networking, disaster recovery and preparation, local and long distance competition, voice/data integration, and network backbone technologies.

The Program Committee is keeping these topics in mind as they review the many proposals that have been received from ACUTA members and others in the telecommunications/IT field. They will also be addressing the management and professional development topics that are so important to our members in their roles as technology leaders in higher education. Stimulating general sessions addressing technology, leadership, management, and regulatory issues, ten User Group meetings, and the useful corporate presentations will round out the educational sessions.

Once again we will be holding the Senior Leadership Forum, which is essentially a conference within the Annual Conference directed to the strategic technology interests of higher-level administrators. ACUTA is fortunate to be advised by a panel of university presidents, vice presidents, and other senior leaders with responsibility for technology planning as we develop the curriculum for this event to closely match the primary concerns of the target audience. I would urge you to ask your senior technology administrators to reserve the dates of July 19-20 to attend the Senior Leadership Forum. They might also be interested in attending other ACUTA Conference events, which are included in the registration fee at no extra charge.

ACUTA will do a special mailing to senior administrators with information on the Senior Leadership Forum. If you would like to have anyone added to this mailing list, please e-mail their name, address, phone, fax and e-mail address to Amy Conrad at the ACUTA office at aconrad@acuta.org.

Q: What's high on your list of priorities?

Tony Tanzi, Brown Univ.: Year 2K compliance for switches, programs and peripherals... We began in January by starting to upgrade my switches' hardware and software components. Then we'll deal with a new TMS program and all the equipment (voice mail, wireless, etc.) attached to the switches. We also must obtain Y2K compliance certificates from all the vendors we do business with (to meet internal audit guidelines). Should keep us busy for a while.

Len Spain, Univ. of Adelaide (Australia): Voice/data integration, reducing voice tariffs, voice over ATM.

Jack Canavera, St. Louis Community College: High on my priority list is installation of a new Nortel Option 81C, upgrades of two 61s to 61Cs, centralized voice mail for the metropolitan campus phone systems, roll out of new phone features for our users using PR service, replacement of our metropolitan fiber lighting equipment with OC48 service and new call accounting software. My plate runneth over.
Y2K
In spite of all the media attention to Y2K, not everyone has begun to prepare for the year 2000. Get ready. It's coming. Many governmental and industrial entities are not ready to tell their constituencies when they will be ready or even if they will be ready by the deadline. Legislation has been passed that restricts the liability that can be placed on a company for not being ready for 2000, at least if they have made an effort. Total cost is enormous—estimates range from $4-5 BILLION for the federal government alone...
You should be testing every piece of equipment and every software program that you use or with which you interface. Then be sure to report anything that does not seem to work correctly to all vendors involved. Just because the system is relatively new does not mean that it is ready for Y2K. A compatibility upgrade was issued a few weeks ago for some PC systems that are only two years old, and I have heard that there may still be problems with some. (Telecom & Data Network Security, 1/99)

Sneak Attack
An interesting article entitled "Sneak Attack: Dial Feature Rocks Local Costs" in Telecom Manager's Voice Report (7MVR-formerly 411 Newsletter, 1/18) points out a significant hidden charge. It seems that combining caller ID and the automatic call-back feature may result in an increase of as much as 50-75c per call.

One large holding company in New York with several retail locations linked for telecom noticed a dramatic increase in their phone bill—over $22,000 in one month. A careful study of a big stack of bills revealed strange charges showing up on individual bills. This is something to watch for, and could be worth blocking, either out of your own PBX or through the LEC in a Centrex environment.

FCC Moves to Portals
The FCC Chairman and Commissioners' move to new quarters was accomplished in January. Although they have a new address, their telephone, fax, and e-mail remains the same.

Cellphone Use in Airplanes
The FCC has granted a two-year-old request by AirBell, Inc., for a waiver of the agency's ban on the use of cellular phones in aircraft. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications bureau rejected arguments against the use of cell phones in flight, granting a two-year waiver. The bureau indicated they believe that the public benefits will far outweigh the chances that there will be negative interference with other terrestrial cellular services. (Telecommunications Reports, 1/4)

Slamming and Cramming
In mid-December, by a vote of 3 to 2, the FCC adopted a set of rules to combat slamming. Commissioners Furchtgott-Roth and Powell cast the dissenting votes. Some of the IXCs agreed with the two Commissioners in opposition to the rules. The most controversial part of the order absolves customers who claim to have been slammed from paying for 30 days' worth of charges levied by the unauthorized carrier. The IXCs are concerned that customers will abuse this privilege and claim slamming when it did not really occur. In addition, bills from companies guilty of slamming frequently arrive more than 30 days after calls were made, which could make this an ineffective safeguard. (TDNS 1/99)

Switch Heist in Las Vegas
On January 3 a significant amount of local exchange switching equipment was stolen from Sprint in Las Vegas. If you are planning to install this type of equipment and are offered a remarkably good buy, check it out carefully. It might be a real steal!
Update

Positions Available
For complete details of these and other positions available, access the ACUTA Web site. If you do not have Internet access, call Pat Scott at the ACUTA office (606/278-3338) to receive a printout of current listings. Please submit position-available information electronically to Aaron Fuehrer at afuehrer@acuta.org or to ACUTA's homepage: http://www.acuta.org. If you post a position, please notify Aaron when the position is filled.

- Videoconference Network Manager, Alfred State College, Alfred, NY
  Contact: Director of Human Resources, SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology, Morrisville, NY 13408. Application review will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. An EEO/AA employer.

- 2 Positions: (1) Billing/Account Coordinator; (2) Student Telecom Coordinator, Virginia Commonwealth Univ., Richmond, VA
  Contact: Human Resources, 1000 E Marshall Street, P O Box 980066, Richmond, VA 23298-0066. For more information, call Kim Kyte at 804-828-0080 or email: kdkyte@vcu.edu.

- Coordinator, Telecom., Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL
  Contact: Personnel Services, The Florida State Univ., 6200 University Center (A), Tallahassee, FL 32306-2410 or at http://www.personnel.fsu.edu.

- Telecommunications Technician, Roger Williams Univ., Bristol, RI
  Contact: James Galib, Roger Williams Univ., One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI 02809. Fax 401/254-3443; jmg@alpha.rwu.edu

A Leader Is a Big Thinker—
The Magnet That Attracts Others

Donna Hall
ACUTA Program Development Manager

Telecommunications professionals are facing challenging times as well as momentous opportunities. Surviving and thriving in our technology-driven, information-overload era depends on insightful leadership at every level of your institution. Leadership is shifting. A new way of acting and thinking is required.

Plan now to attend the ACUTA Annual Conference July 18-22 and hear about 21st century organizational leadership from Sheila Murray Bethel at the Wednesday General Session. Author, speaker, television personality, and business woman, Bethel is a woman of many talents. Her latest book, Making a Difference: 12 Qualities That Make You a Leader, is a bestseller. Her presentations are described as timeless and timely... common sense... entertaining and educational... powerful and touching.

Bethel will discuss three drivers that are pushing and pulling us into the 21st century:

1. Being a Change Master: The future is wide open to those who have ability and willingness to grow and change.
2. Understanding the power of partnerships and alliances: Success in the future is based on your ability to network with others.
3. Leading in our technology-driven society: Leadership must be people-first and involve a servant-leader philosophy.

Bethel will challenge and encourage you to look at a new model of leadership that will help you build teams of people committed to success.

"Some men see things as they are and say why?
I dream of things that never were and say why not?"
—Robert Frost