APPROVED MINUTES
JUDICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE

March 31, 2000

Members Present:
Judge C. Kenneth Grosse, Vice Chair
Judge Dale B. Ramerman
Judge Thomas C. Warren
Judge Clifford L. Stilz
Ms. Cathleen M. Grindle
Mr. Michael Planet
Ms. Siri Woods
Mr. David Ponzoha

Members Absent:
Ms. Mary McQueen
Judge Thomas J. Wynne
Judge James R. Heller
Mr. Gary Riesen
Mr. John Klei
Mr. David Reynolds
Ms. Virginia Kirk

Staff Present:
Dr. Tom Clarke
Ms. Janet McLane
Mr. Brian Backus
Ms. Jennifer Peters
Ms. Lynne Alfasso
Ms. Kathy Kuriyama

Guests Present:
Justice Bobbe Bridge, Supreme Court
Mr. Rich Johnson, Court of Appeals
Ms. Bev Hempleman, OFM
Mr. Rowland Thompson, Allied Newspapers
Mr. Aldo Melchiori, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee

Call to Order

Judge Grosse called the business meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The minutes of the February 25, 2000 meeting were approved as written.

Legislative Report

Dr. Clarke reported that it appears the JISC supplemental budget request will be reduced from $1.4 million to $600,000. **[The legislature subsequently appropriated the full $1.4 million.]** Most of the other bills that affect JIS in some respect are code additions. One bill permits, but doesn't require, credit card payments.

Old Business

Court Supplies
Mr. Backus reported on the proposal discussed at the last meeting to shift supply (standard paper forms and printer ribbons) ordering to the courts. As directed at the last meeting, the OAC took this issue to the JIS Advisory Committee, raised a number of issues (the basis for the allocation, how reimbursements would sync with local government budget timing, and whether the local courts could get the same prices as the State). **[OAC is withdrawing the request to perform more analysis of the business problem.]**

JIS Strategic Plan Revision
Dr. Clarke noted that the revised JIS Strategic Plan had been distributed at the last meeting for review and possible approval at this meeting.

ACTION: Judge Grosse suggested using the JIS Retreat to complete discussion of the plan along with the budget initiatives for the coming biennium.

JIS Migration Plan
Dr. Clarke gave a presentation on the JIS Migration Plan, which includes web-browser interfaces and object-oriented business logic. Browsers provide a consistent look and feel that lowers training requirements, is simpler technically, and is less expensive to support the PC clients. The object-oriented business makes maintenance and enhancements much cheaper and more economical. The objects can also be reused in other applications, making development faster and more reliable. JIS data remains on the mainframe, which is a cost-effective and secure server.

The new architecture supports a vision of Digital Justice, which includes support for electronic filing, public access to JIS data, and court access to JIS case management systems via one Internet portal. The Committee discussed the impact of this plan on various JIS applications and the need to make a funding case to the legislature. Dr. Clarke noted current JIS resource constraints and their impact on recent JIS projects.

ACTION: The JIS Advisory Committee will recommend a prioritized long list of backlogged maintenance projects at the JIS Retreat.

ACTION: Judge Grosse asked that Dr. Clarke make a presentation at the JIS Retreat on the proposed new architecture for JIS and why it is being recommended to the Committee. Judge Grosse also asked that Dr. Clarke also discuss the proper role of the Committee in regard to these kinds of technical decisions at the JIS Retreat.

Judge Grosse is very excited about these changes, because it gets the Committee out of the business of making technical decisions about hardware platforms, PC support, and telecommunications issues. It will make life a lot easier, since the courts cannot avoid going down the road to newer technology.

Electronic Court Filing Recommendations
Judge Ramerman reviewed the report that was distributed at the last meeting. Consistent with the Committee's direction at last year's JIS Retreat, his workgroup developed recommendations.

Roger Winters has been working on the Legal XML Project at Georgia State. Dr. Clarke noted that IBM supports XML in all of its products.

The Committee discussed the implications of various document formats. Dr. Clarke noted that the technology is evolving rapidly and we can't predict where it's going to go. His preferred strategy is that the JIS architecture be open and flexible enough to accommodate changes in file formats and document technology. JIS may need to choose a temporary solution for judges and clerks reading documents online that is flexible enough to go wherever the technology takes us.

Ms. Woods sees two significantly different needs: judges need to read and word search documents, while clerks need to see and file documents for access by case parties and the public. King, Kitsap and Chelan Counties are pursuing pilot projects that will provide useful feedback. Judge Ramerman mentioned that the standards subcommittee will be investigating the related problem of electronic citation methods.

MOTION: A motion to adopt the principles in the Report was approved, seconded and adopted.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

JIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Ms. Grindle reported that the JIS Advisory Committee activated the Superior and Limited Jurisdiction subcommittees. Guidance on code adoption, data quality and business need analysis were approved. Their next meeting will be held on May 18, 2000 at Two Union Square, Seattle.

Future Meetings

The JIS Committee Retreat will be on May 26, 2000, in the Large Auditorium at the Seatac Airport, Seatac, WA from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The next JIS Data Dissemination Subcommittee will meet on May 5, 2000, at the OAC Basement Conference Room, One Union Square, Seattle, WA.

The next JIS Advisory Committee will meet on May 18, 2000, at Two Union Square, Room 1606, Seattle, WA.