

**State Systems Constituent Group**  
**Notes from meeting on October 11, 2000**  
**EDUCAUSE 2000**

Lunchtime Discussion  
24 participants signed in

Instead of being set up in a square or rectangle, four round tables, each surrounded by ten chairs, filled the room. Immediately obvious that a single conversation would be too difficult, we agreed that we would have three separate conversations.

The convener, Ruth Robertson, suggested to the entire group that they might wish to include discussion of administrative system and statewide networking; a participant added the topic of portals, especially whether they should be centralized. From that point, each of the three tables operated and interacted independently, and no notes were kept from the other two tables. They reported that they had good discussions, one focusing on networking, the other on implementation of administrative systems.

One-third of the group discussed the pros and cons of enterprise-wide portal development. Unless a completely shared set of administrative and student support systems is in place, one of the major values of shared development is lost, since the connections to the back end must be done several times. Maintenance of the portal is extensive and must change as services change, another factor to consider in deciding whether to centralize. Instead of putting so much effort into portals, why not develop a really good search engine that each university could plug in to its home page?

Portals require an oversight committee containing content providers, users, student services staff and IT professionals.

What about advertising on portals? Are there state regulations that limit it? What is the hierarchy of portals? At what level should advertising be permitted, if at all?

Other issues and concerns mentioned by participants included the push to provide high bandwidth off campus to accommodate distance learning, the use of statewide contracts to get really good prices for computer hardware, and the necessity to have good e-commerce transactions for all parts of university systems.