



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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System Computing Service and Interactive Video

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System Computing Service (SCS) is a vital component in the University and Community College System of Nevada. According to a statement on their web site:

“System Computing Services provides system-wide computing and network services and information technology leadership to the University and Community College System of Nevada.”

SCS serves the University and Community College System on behalf of the Board of Regents. They are a necessary link in the educational mission of UCCSN.

Most of the interactions with SCS are through the various institutions’ information and technology specialists. The one exception to this is the use of the interactive video system. Here, dealings are directly with SCS personnel in order to schedule and if needed troubleshoot interactive video sessions. Network Services is the department within SCS responsible for interactive video.

The use of interactive video communications is on the rise both as a conferencing tool and distance education delivery system. It is necessary to understand this link in order to effectively use this technology. Network Services currently coordinates about 200 separate inter-active video sites. They have the capacity to expand to approximately 400 as the need arises. During a single regular business hour it may log up to 54 interactive video hours around the state.

SCS has an annual budget that is appropriated by the state legislature and is channeled through the Board of Regents. SCS does not directly “bill” users of the interactive video system within the state of Nevada. However, the system can be connected to other out-of-state or even international systems. Cost can vary so contact SCS directly for details or to schedule such a meeting.

According to SCS:

“Use of the interactive video network is limited to those entities directly supporting the educational, clinical, administrative, and research objectives of the UCCSN and the K-12 community. Use of the video network by for-profit entities or entities whose purpose is not in direct support of the UCCSN mission or the State of Nevada is strictly prohibited.

Non-UCCSN entities whose mission is of a non-profit public service nature, and whose purpose directly supports the needs of the State of Nevada, can on an exception basis, be allowed to utilize the video network on an "as available" basis during normal working hours subject to prior approval by the SCS Director – Network/NevadaNet Services.

Every entity within the UCCSN is its own scheduler. Within Cooperative Extension there are individual schedulers for each area as well as for administration. Only these individuals may schedule use of the system. A complete list of schedulers may be found on the SCS website: <http://www.scs.nevada.edu>

All video conferences are scheduled according to the following priorities:

1. Academic Classes
2. Board of Regents/System Administration Office Conferences
3. Other UCCSN and K-12 Administrative Conferences
4. Non-UCCSN Administrative Conferences

Only the original scheduler may make changes. This includes changes in times, dates and additions/deletions to reserved sites.

If a meeting looks like it is going to run longer than the scheduled time, participants may extend the conference if no conflicts exist by calling 800-815-9462.

Likewise, if a session finishes more than 30 minutes early, SCS should be contacted at that same number. This allows for the most efficient use of this resource.

SCS maintains support centers in Las Vegas and Reno to assist office staff or others. They can be contacted by phone during regular business hours at:

Las Vegas: 702-895-4585

Reno: 775-784-4357

System Computing Services maintains an extensive web site at:

<http://www.scs.nevada.edu>

References:

Chandler, Dani, Network Analyst, Network Services, UCCSN

Fry, Steve, Senior Network Analyst, Network Services, UCCSN

Griffith, John, Senior Network Analyst, Network Services, UCCSN

King, Bill, Senior Network Analyst, Network Services, UCCSN

Skelly, JoAnne, 2000. *Inter Active Compressed Video for Distance Education*. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet. FS 00-28

System Computing Services Website, <http://www.scs.nevada.edu>

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