

**THE PETER KIEWIT INSTITUTE OF
INFORMATION SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENGINEERING
of the
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA**

**CHARTER
December 1, 1995
Revised, June 1, 2008**

I. INTENTION AND PURPOSE

The University of Nebraska ("University") has created the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering ("Institute") which is a university-wide institute, comprised of the University of Nebraska at Omaha ("UNO") College of Information Science and Technology and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ("UNL") College of Engineering. It is contemplated that other University colleges, departments or other units may become affiliated with the Institute upon a determination that such affiliation advances the goals of the University. The Institute currently works in collaboration with the Peter Kiewit Institute Technology Development Corporation ("PKITDC"), Holland Computing Center, Inc. ("Holland") and the Scott Technology Transfer and Incubator Center ("Scott Tech Center"), and may in the future collaborate with other entities.

The Institute provides an administrative structure that allows creation of synergy among these two colleges and other units and/or disciplines to expand educational opportunities in information science, technology and engineering at the undergraduate and graduate level, increase the level of competitive research in these disciplines, provide continuing education programs for professionals in these fields, serve as a magnet for attracting private sector research-based companies, and facilitate outreach to business and government. The Institute and programs in the Institute are authorized to contract with the private sector and the government to achieve its goals. These interactions lead to new developments of importance to business and industry. Enhanced economic development in Nebraska and the region, improved stature for the University, and direct support for the business community are among the results realized from formation of the Institute.

The purposes of the Institute are:

- to create an international center of excellence in information science, technology and engineering by development and support of the highest quality programs in each college and through the cooperative use of resources from each college, from other colleges or departments within the University, and from the private sector;
- to provide the Omaha metropolitan area, the State of Nebraska, the region, and the nation with a unique resource for the education of current and future employees, support of existing and developing technologies, and the creation of partnerships to develop new business opportunities through advancing innovation and technology;

- to build a research center of excellence at the University that will help establish the University as a national leader in the academic units that comprise the Institute and to foster innovation and attract economic development;
- to exploit the advantages of cooperative programming among colleges and departments of the University, and the potential for mutually beneficial interactions with the private sector and government; and
- to create, through cooperative efforts, the achievement of common goals and a common environment for the success of the Institute.

II. THE INSTITUTE

A. PARTNERS OF THE INSTITUTE

The Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering of the University of Nebraska is an institute of the University, designed to facilitate cooperation and the development of joint programs and activities among disciplines at the University and in particular between the UNO College of Information Science and Technology and the Omaha-based programs of the UNL College of Engineering. The two colleges shall be full participants in the Institute. The Institute currently works in collaboration with PKITDC, Holland and the Scott Tech Center and may in the future collaborate with other entities.

B. PROGRAMS WITHIN AND OF THE INSTITUTE

1. **Degree programs.** Degrees at the University are awarded by the faculty of the various colleges. The Institute will not award degrees in its own right. The Institute will serve as a structure to facilitate joint and cooperative degree programs between its participants. Degree programs may be at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.
 - a. **Information science and technology degrees.** Information science degree programs offered in Omaha shall be the primary responsibility of and administered by the UNO College of Information Science and Technology.
 - b. **Engineering and engineering technology degrees.** Engineering and engineering technology degree programs offered in Omaha shall be the primary responsibility of and administered by the UNL College of Engineering.

- c. **Joint degrees.** Joint degree programs are programs offered and administered jointly by more than one college or department. Colleges or departments involved in joint degree programs participate equally in administering these programs. Joint degree programs may be developed between the participants of the Institute or between a participant and another college or department of the University.
 - d. **Graduate degrees.** The UNO College of Information Science and Technology and the UNL College of Engineering may offer Masters and Ph.D. degrees.
 - e. **Cooperative degrees.** Cooperative degree programs are programs whose primary home is a department or college with faculty from more than one department or college. The primary home department or college administers the degree program.
- 2. **Research programs.** The Institute shall encourage, promote, fund, and facilitate research conducted by the participating colleges and their faculties, and encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary, intercampus, and other joint research programs between the two colleges and between the colleges and other units within the University or in the private sector.
 - 3. **Outreach programs.** The Institute shall facilitate outreach programs involving non-degree instructional programs, technology transfers, joint public-private research, consulting and other extension services, and such other programs as might be appropriate. Such outreach programs may be conducted by the colleges alone or on a joint basis.

C. FACULTY OF THE INSTITUTE

- 1. **Permanent University faculty.** Permanent faculty associated with the programs of the Institute shall retain their principal academic home in their academic department or college. Either participating college, or any other unit of the University, may assign one or more of its faculty members to perform responsibilities relating to programs of the Institute. It is expected that any faculty housed in the Institute will have responsibilities for Institute programs and contribute to the mission of the Institute.
- 2. **Temporary Institute faculty.** The Institute or its participants may retain individuals on a temporary basis to participate in programs of the Institute. Such individuals might include visiting scholars from other universities, visiting teachers or researchers from the private or public sectors, consultants, or other individuals appropriate for the programs of the Institute.

D. STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE INSTITUTE

The strategic plan of the Institute shall include the following: (1) the academic priorities of the Institute, (2) the manner and means by which the participating colleges will support the achievement of those priorities, (3) the resources available or required to meet those priorities and the likely source of those resources, and (4) the metrics to be employed to measure progress in meeting those priorities. Among the areas to be addressed in the strategic plan are: (1) student enrollment, (2) academic programs, (3) research agendas, and (4) outreach programs. The strategic plan shall also address the general funding of the Institute with respect to public and private support.

E. PUBLIC OR PRIVATE GRANTS OR CONTRACTS

The Institute may apply for and accept public or private grants or contracts to fund its programs. The University of Nebraska Foundation ("Foundation") may accept private donations on behalf of the Institute.

III. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTE

- A. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.** The Executive Director shall be the chief executive officer and chief science and technology officer of the Institute, responsible for all aspects of its leadership and administration. The Executive Director shall be appointed by and responsible to the President of the University and shall report to the President through the Executive Vice President and Provost.

The Executive Director shall:

1. serve as the chief science and technology officer of the Institute;
2. lead the development and oversee implementation of the Institute's strategic plan which shall provide for teaching, research and outreach that achieves national recognition and serves the interests of Nebraska;
3. prepare an annual consolidated budget for the operation of all aspects of the Institute, which shall be presented to the Institute's Board of Policy Advisors ("BOPA") prior to the fiscal year; the budget relating to private funds subject to the authority of the BOPA shall be approved by the BOPA;

4. consistent with policies of the University, the BOPA, the Foundation and with the annual Institute budget, have the authority for expenditure of all Foundation funds held for the benefit of the Institute, and shall submit an annual report to the BOPA with regard to expenditure of such funds;
5. consistent with University policies and oversight, have authority for expenditure of funds (other than those described in “4” above) designated specifically for the Institute regardless of source, and shall seek the advice of the BOPA and report annually to the BOPA with regard to expenditure of all such funds;
6. pursue initiatives that will contribute to the success of the Institute;
7. meet annually with the Academic Advisory Council (“Council”) with respect to the planning and administration of the Institute and the development of programs within the colleges related to the Institute and other related matters;
8. support the mission of the Institute by implementing the goals and intentions of this Charter;
9. establish policies and procedures for the Institute;
10. have responsibility for Institute programs and initiatives which include student recruitment, student placement, intern programs, and business relationships;
11. in coordination with the Foundation and consistent with University priorities, have primary responsibility of fundraising for the Institute;
12. be an ex officio member of the BOPA and other affiliated and/or related entities such as PKITDC and Holland.

B. THE DEANS OF THE COLLEGES. The Deans of the UNO College of Information Science and Technology and the UNL College of Engineering shall administer their respective colleges. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, the two Deans shall participate in the development of the Institute’s strategic plan, and develop and implement integrated college plans to support and advance the Institute’s goals and objectives set forth in the Institute’s strategic plan.

C. THE ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL. The Academic Advisory Council (“Council”) shall provide advice and support with regard to collaboration between the colleges and other academic units of the University relating to the achievement of Institute goals and objectives.

1. The membership of the Council shall consist of: the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University, the Associate Vice President for Research, the Executive Director of the Institute, the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UNO, the Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at UNL, the Vice Chancellor for Research at UNL, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at UNO, the Dean of the UNL College of Engineering and the Dean of the UNO College of Information Science and Technology, and other such members who may be appointed by the President.
2. The Council shall be chaired by the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University.
3. The Executive Director shall brief the Council on goals, planning, issues regarding policies, procedures, or other matters that may arise in the course of leading the Institute.

D. BOARD OF POLICY ADVISORS. A Board of Policy Advisors (“BOPA”) shall assure participation by the public and private sector in the plans and programs of the Institute.

1. The membership of the BOPA shall be appointed by the President of the University after consultation with the private sector and shall consist of eleven leaders from the private sector, government and/or academe. A majority of the members of the BOPA shall be selected from the private sector, and shall be broadly representative of the business and commercial enterprises likely to interact with and support the work of the Institute. Members of the BOPA shall serve staggered terms and may be reappointed when their term expires.
2. The BOPA shall:
 - a. provide the Executive Director, the Council and the Deans with recommendations relating to the strategic plan of the Institute in order to ensure responsiveness to the needs of the private sector and government;
 - b. provide an external evaluation of the extent to which the priorities adopted in the strategic plan have been achieved;
 - c. review and comment on policies and procedures of the Institute;
 - d. advise the President on the performance of the Executive Director;
 - e. advise the Chancellors and the President on the performance of the Deans;

- f. assist the Executive Director and the Foundation in seeking private financial support for the Institute;
- g. establish policies and procedures for exercising its responsibilities;
- h. provide oversight over all current funds held in the Foundation for and on behalf of the Institute.

IV. PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS

- A. PKITDC is a 501(c) (3) corporation which exists to support and facilitate Institute and faculty outreach with the private sector and government, including the support of basic and applied research supported by the private sector.
- B. PKITDC may enter into agreements with individuals, organizations, and agencies from both the private and public sectors. Consistent with the policies established by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, PKITDC shall maintain policies and procedures for such activities, and report regularly to the BOPA on its activities.
- C. Institute and PKITDC agreements with outside partners may include but not be limited to:
 - 1. research, including joint research activities;
 - 2. development of educational programming tailored to the needs of a particular industry or sector;
 - 3. implementation of student internships, residency programs for private sector personnel, and consultantships;
 - 4. development of incubator capabilities for the conduct of research and the support of innovations in the private sector;
 - 5. provision of specific contractual services by the Institute or by the other party;
 - 6. any other activity that will enhance the programs of the Institute or assist in economic development; and
 - 7. the extent to which information developed during the course of the agreement is proprietary in nature.