

The Digital Policy Institute

Ball State University
www.bsu.edu/digitalpolicy



DPI Board Members

Rodney Davis, Interim Dean, Miller College of Business

Arthur Hafner, Dean of University Libraries

Roger Lavery, Dean of the College of Communication, Information, and Media

DPI Members

- Cecil E. Bohanon, Professor of Economics, MCoB
- Dom Caristi, Associate Professor of Telecommunications
- Fritz Dolak, Copyright and Intellectual Property Manager, University Libraries
- Jay Gillette, Professor of Information and Communication Sciences
- Michael Hanley, Assistant Professor of Journalism
- Michael J. Hicks, Director, Bureau of Business Research, MCoB
- Stephan Jones, Director of CICS
- Alan Richardson, Professor of Telecommunications
- Barry D. Umansky, Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Professor of Telecommunications
- Robert E. Yadon, Director of Applied Research Institute, CICS
- Ryan Wolfgang, Research Associate, CICS



Mission

The mission of the DPI is to foster a mutually beneficial relationship among faculty of various disciplines across the Ball State University campus by:

1. Promoting the active participation and involvement of BSU faculty in public policy research related to the information age;
2. Serving as a vehicle to support faculty research in the areas of law, regulation, economics and technology as they relate to public policy issues of local, state and national interest;
3. Establishing a collegial environment that will foster critical thinking across disciplines on national public policy issues; and
4. Promoting student involvement and immersion in timely public policy research questions at the graduate and undergraduate levels across various disciplines. In fulfilling this mission, the Institute will insure that all of its efforts and activities are consistent with the university's mission, values, strategic objectives, policies, and procedures.

Purpose

The Digital Policy Institute serves the 21st century as an interdisciplinary association of faculty who have a collective research interest in digital media.

These digital interests include the structure of, and competition within, electronic communications industries and further includes the public policy issues of digital creation, storage, transmission, reception, consumption, and legal intellectual property protection of digital information including:

- Written
- Voice
- Data
- Still images
- Video
- Computer graphics

The DPI is a vehicle for faculty research that coalesces around the arenas of law, regulation, economics, intellectual property, and technology as these relate to public policy issues of local, state and national interests.

The DPI is a neutral entity on digital media issues allowing it to provide fair and balanced presentations from all sides of any given issue. The DPI's neutrality allows society and its governing bodies to make educated decisions on relevant, digital issues.

Current Projects

Governor Mitch Daniel's State of the State message on January 15, 2008, twice mentioned telecommunications reform. His last remark on reform was:

"When knowledgeable Americans think of telecommunications reform, they think of Indiana."

The DPI was instrumental in providing timely and relevant information for the passage of this reform through objective analysis of Indiana's telecommunications landscape. The key submission of the DPI was a paper provided to the Indiana General Assembly dated February 14, 2006, entitled, "The Economic Impact of Telecom Reform in Indiana: 2006."

The DPI is currently working on a follow-up study, **Interim Report on HEA 1279**. Several bullet points taken from the Executive Summary of this report were submitted to Governor Daniels for his State of the State address on January 15, 2008. These include:

- New Wireline Deployments – DSL
- Improved Workforce Opportunities
- New Capital Expenditures - Infrastructure
- Indiana Remains a Leader in Telecom Reform Legislation
- Indiana is a Leader in Broadband Wireless Deployment
- New Competition for Video Impacts Price for Hoosiers

This Interim Report on HEA 1279 will be completed on or about January 31, 2008 and will be released in Indianapolis at a joint press conference for dissemination to the Indiana General Assembly.

Spotlight on DPI

December 16, 2005, DPI/IURC Regulatory Retreat: "Migration to Broadband: The Changing Indiana Landscape," Alumni Center.

January 23, 2006, "No wonder cable companies oppose this bill," Alan Richardson.

January 26, 2006, "Looking Clearly Through the Telecommunications Fog of War," Barry D. Umansky, *Ball State Daily News*

February 1, 2006, "Telecom reform in the states: Will Indiana be in the race?" Robert E. Yadon, *Evansville Courier Press*.

February 14, 2006, "The Economic Impact of Telecom Reform in Indiana: 2006," Patrick M. Barkey, Cecil E. Bohanon, Dom Caristi, Zoran Grabovac, David J. McClelland, Barry D. Umansky, Robert E. Yadon.

May 1, 2006, "Hoosier Telecom Reform Leads Nation," Sam Staley, *The Heartland Institute*.

May 19, 2006, Michigan White Paper: "The Economic Impact of Video Franchising and Broadband Investment in Michigan: 2006," Barry L. Litman, Michigan State University, Robert E. Yadon, Ball State University

May 2006, "MSU research finds Michigan consumers could save millions under franchise reform bill," Michigan State University.

October 1, 2006, Barry Umansky quoted in a civil lawsuit being brought against Radio One, Barry Umansky, *Indianapolis Business Journal*.

October 3, 2007, "Retransmission Consent, Must Carry and the Public: Current economic and regulatory realities of multichannel video providers," White Paper commissioned by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association.

October 9, 2007, Fritz Dolak, radio interview on file sharing, the DMCA, and the Home Recording Act of 1992, WIBC-AM, Indianapolis.

December 2007, Barry Umansky was featured in a WTHR, Channel 13, Indianapolis, week-long news and consumer series on the transition from analog to digital television.

January 13, 2008, Robert Yadon quoted in the article, "Competition keeping telecom companies busy: Deregulation of the industry was good for consumers, expert says," by Keith Roysdon, *Muncie Star Press*.

January 17, 2008, "U.S. cities make 'intelligent' list in 2008, but national policy still 'pathetic': Pacific meeting spotlights booming video trends, intelligent communities," by Jay Gillette, *NetworkWorld.com*.

DPI Sponsorships

Interdisciplinary, learning opportunities and fostering a research culture for graduate and undergraduate students though sponsored research stipends since 2004 have been awarded to:

- Geoff Gaylor (CICS)
- Chi-Hsun Chiu (TCOM)
- Dave McClelland (CICS)
- Zoran Grabovac (ECON)
- Ryan Wolfgang (CICS)

Two cash sponsorships of the annual, Ball State University Copyright Conference:

- 2006, Copyright Challenges and Opportunities
- 2008, Copyright in Oz

DPI Impact and Influence

National, collaborative relationships.

- Michigan State University
- AT&T
- Embarq
- ITA
- NTCA
- Verizon
- Heartland Institute
- The Brookings Institution

State of Indiana collaborative relationships:

- By means of the DPI's Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission Retreat: "Migration to Broadband: The Changing Indiana Landscape," in December 2005, a non-partisan, neutral dialogue assisted in outlining the need for telecommunications reform in Indiana. Through this retreat, several positive relationships were made at the state level.
- Testimony before the Indiana House and Senate on Telecom legislation.

DPI Future Plans and Objectives

Topics for further investigation, research, and collaborative outreach include:

- Providing more immersive opportunities by sponsoring a student paper competition for publication through the DPI as well as a cash prize award
- Net neutrality
- Impact of Broadband Wireless in Indiana (WiMax)
- Assisting DPI member publication
- Establishing an online Digital Policy Institute Journal with a Library of Congress ISSN
- Sponsoring future Ball State University Copyright Conferences

Ball State University Strategic Plan

The DPI with its outflow of expertise through conferences, publications, and various State of Indiana appointed and elected officials, and contributes to the strategic information initiatives of the University. As President, Dr. Jo Ann M. Gora, recently observed, "... [a] new strategic planning process ... will increase the momentum the university has generated and will set a course by which the university can become truly distinctive." The DPI contributes to the distinctiveness of Ball State University.