

NET+ BPLAC Meeting Summary

May 12, 2021

Attendees: Matt D’Emilio, Bobby Clark, Emma Levett, Carrie Shumaker, Lester Greenman, Marra Austin, Berni Kenney, Joe Holewa, Kevin Morooney, Sean O’Brien, Sue Gavazzi, Meredith Lovelace, Glenn Lipscomb, Ben Fineman, Nick Lewis, Traci LeDuc (Code42)

- Code42 requested an invitation to BPLAC in order to gather feedback on improving language for their RFP responses. The committee provided multiple examples of how rules vary by state and by public vs. private institution’s ability to leverage RFPs and existing contracts. BPLAC offered to gather language that Code42, and other service providers, can use to broaden their responses so that more institutions can leverage them.
- Internet2 communications joined to gather feedback and ideas. There is an issue on campuses with generational knowledge of what Internet2 is and the value that NET+ contracts provide. Tools for an audience like BPLAC would be beneficial for their campuses and for colleagues at other institutions. These include a statement describing NET+ as a “buying consortium” and names/logos that convey the value of Internet2 and NET+ more obviously.
- Survey results for deliverables for 2021 were reviewed. The top 2 deliverables are “Create summaries on pricing and contract advantages for all NET+ offerings” and “Increase effective communications channels between Internet2 and members”. There was a 5-way tie for the 3rd deliverable, so further discussion is required to finalize.
- BPLAC members discussed issues with vendors asking institutions to self-audit for compliance with their contracts. Software that installs via click-through agreements and with little or no deployment controls pose a higher risk of non-compliance. Examples of vendors that use these tactics and have sued for violations were provided. The committee suggested there is an opportunity for NET+ to include stronger audit language in their contracts to address this.