INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT FORUM (ITMF)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2006

1:30-3:00 P.M.

GEORGIA CENTER, BANQUET ROOM 104

Present: Chris Adcock, Matt Blankenship, Sharon Burch, Bill Clayton, Lee Cornell, Mike Dennis, Bert DeSimone, Debbie Ellerson, Alan Ferrenberg, Marshall Gibson, Sandi Glass, Judy James, Paul Keck, David Matthews-Morgan, Tammy McGarity, Christine Miller, Dan Murphy, Wayne Peacock, Cheryl Prichard, Rayid Tartir and Greg Topp.

Absent: Sue Achtemeier, John Anderson, Greg Ashley, Mike Campbell, Mark Cherry, Joellen Childers, Corey Doster, Mark Ellenberg, Sarah Fraker, Stan Gatewood, Don Hamilton, Brad Hunt, David Knox, Will Laney, Eric McRae, Jerry NeSmith, Teresa Payne, Jeff Pentz, Barry Robinson, Cletus Stripling, Jeff Teasley, Sharon Thelen, Carol Watson, Dale Wetzelberger, Barbara White, Chris Wilkins and Chris Workman.

The group approved the minutes for the December ITMF meeting.

Membership Update : Dan Murphy gave an update on his effort to update the membership list for ITMF. He revealed that he is approaching the task in phases that break down as follows:

Phase I – Understanding of group conceptually.

Phase II -- Identification of departments who have a member listed but that member rarely, if ever, attends the meetings.

Phase II – Identifying departments not represented in the membership list at all.

Dan also mentioned that he would like approval to begin asking a member from ITMF to attend UGANet meetings to begin the process of collaborating with that group. The group approved this effort stipulating that the member who attends should be based on a rotating schedule. Paul Keck agreed to present UGANet issues to the ITMF group at future meetings.

It was also agreed that the ITMF group should be receiving the same update from the EITS directors that the UGANet group has been privy to in the past. Therefore, it was decided that at the next UGANet meeting that the directors attend, ITMF should also be represented. Paul noted that the directors attend the first UGANet meeting of every month at 1 p.m. (Paul should be contact at pkeck@uga.edu for more information on where the meeting will be held.)

Project Database Update : Bert DeSimone noted that his campus Web development group DWEEBS has taken it upon themselves to begin development on a project database to track what they are doing as Web developers. Bert asked that the ITMF group consider this initiative a prototype for a test database that the ITMF may want to review as it develops.
The ITMF agreed to review the database at Bert’s request.

There was further discussion on whether or not including skills in such a database is a productive use of the technology. Some maintained that a forum for showcasing skills should be easy to sell while others believe it will frighten those who may see it as a way to monitor work performance. This debate is ongoing.

Sandi Glass noted that the database might also prove useful as an inexpensive training resource toward retention of employees, and as a forum for discussion of software purchases toward licensing contracts. Greg Topp noted that as the database is discussed and developed the idea of tracking standard methodologies should also be considered as potential data to be stored.

Paul Keck reminded that formality sometimes dries up interest from a networking perspective.

Bert said he would present progress at later ITMF meetings.

Network Upgrade Budget Discussion: As per a request made by Chris Adcock, the group told Chris how they approached budget considerations when attempting to fund upgrade to network infrastructure. Mike Dennis noted that he and Chris had had a lengthy discussion on the improvements made in Operations and Infrastructure toward preparing for the Next Generation Network.

Mike noted that there are several committees exploring pieces of that upgrade included the VoIP committee and “Support to the jack” committee. He recommended that anyone interested in looking at what has been done thus should visit the EITS webpage and view the documents related to the Operations and Infrastructure Compact Plan (www.uga.edu/netinfo/ngn/uga-ngn.html).

Mike also mentioned that he will be knocking on doors in coming months to discuss some of the upgrades and their effects.

Matt Blankenship offered Chris some ideas as to how they approach upgrades in the Vet school, namely pushing the age of the infrastructure, number of failures, engaging the faculty and heavily justifying the expenditures.

Sandi Glass noted that the College of Education pushed the ideas of equity of systems, network standards, outdated network closets, and detailed explanations of the function of the network in asking for funding to upgrade.

Other Business:

- Matt will have ideas to begin discussion of brainstorming for next meeting.

With no other business to discuss, the group adjourned at 2:50 p.m.