INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT FORUM (ITMF)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2004

MINUTES

Present: Chris Adcock, Greg Ashley, Matt Blankenship, Sharon Burch, Joellen Childers, Bert DeSimone, Debbie Ellerson, Alan Ferrenberg, Sandi Glass, Brad Hunt, Judy James, Paul Keck, David Matthews-Morgan, Tammy McGarity, Christine Miller, Jeff Pentz, Barry Robinson, Martha Stokes, Cletus Stripling, Greg Topp, Barbara White, and Chris Workman.

Absent: Sue Achtemeier, John Anderson, Mike Campbell, Mark Cherry, Bill Clayton, Lee Cornell, Mike Dennis, Corey Doster, Mark Ellenberg, Sarah Fraker, Stan Gatewood, Don Hamilton, Stuart Ivy, David Knox, Will Laney, Eric McRae, Dan Murphy, Jerry NeSmith, Teresa Payne, Cheryl Prichard, Jeff Teasley, Sharon Thelen, Carol Watson, Dale Wetzelberger, and Chris Wilkins.

Approval of Minutes – The group approved the minutes for the November 4, 2004, ITMF meeting.

Chair Announcements – The new chair of the ITMF, Matt Blankenship, made a few announcements to start the meeting. They included:

- An official recognition of thanks to outgoing ITMF Chair Christine Miller.
- An official recognition of Joellen Childers as Interim Communications Officer.
- An official call for group members to be aware of, and share information related to, any meetings that concern IT issues on campus.

CIO Update on UGA IT Concerns – UGA’s CIO Dr. Barbara White gave an update on what she’s done, seen and heard since her start date of October 1. The main points revolved around her impression of the “interest and level of collaboration and cooperation from all parts of campus” to the larger IT picture at the university.
She feels the overarching attitude from most IT-interested parties on campus is comprised of a keen interest in the forthcoming information technology initiatives and infrastructure, where IT is headed, and what plans will be implemented in the future.

Dr. White mentioned her recent visit with the university’s Executive Management Team and told the ITMF there’s a sense at that level that, while it’s recognized the university faces major challenges in the IT field, there is a commitment from senior administration to “put thoughts on the table” respective of the big picture as opposed to the individual picture. Calling the projects that might result from this mindset a “huge culture change,” Dr. White assured the group that because of the efforts to come together of seemingly disparate groups – such as UGANet, ITMF, the IT Council, the research community, and the user community – she’s very optimistic about what can happen in IT on campus.

Some of the specific questions posed in the course of over 80 meetings she’s thus far attended include:

- Will the campus ever fully realize the efforts of the groups working toward data integration?
- Will UGA have adequate storage capacity; and, subsequently, will it have more than it needs?
- What level of connectivity will the university reach?

Some of the concerns she’s heard include:

- The current culture supports a decentralized and silo-heavy model of IT on campus.
- The perception that “those with the gold have the power”.
- The difficulty in leveraging different sets of expertise without destroying the autonomy at the “local” or individual level.
Dr. White assured the group that a Vision Statement addressing both questions and concerns is forthcoming once the business drivers within the university-at-large are better understood. For the time being, however, she offered up a synopsis of the direction IT may take at UGA:

- An emphasis will be placed on creating a more federated model of IT on campus with the idea that user training and infrastructure will still be maintained at a local level; however, they will also be a part of a core, or central, computing group for larger or more specific changes. The goal is to present a model of how that federation might look to the EMT in March or April 2005.

- The development of a business model focusing on replacement, upgrade, life cycle and depreciation of UGA core infrastructure, systems, and applications is also critical.

- University partnerships with private sponsors will be examined. The Research Computing Partnership was mentioned as a model of how this kind of collaborative effort might work as efforts are made to work with private partners.

- A Compact Plan process is underway. This plan differs from the top-down method of strategic planning in that it is a negotiated process requiring input from all interested parties, and is primarily user-driven. (An example of a compact plan can be found at Utah State University’s Information Technology webpage at http://www.usu.edu/cio/compact.htm.)

Dr. White finished by mentioning the division of duties at EITS between the CIO (strategy, planning, budgeting, visioning) and EITS (daily operations), pointing out that there have been some managerial duty changes within EITS, and reminding the group to visit EITS’ new homepage at [www.eits.uga.edu](http://www.eits.uga.edu).

**IT Jobs Update** – Sandi Glass gave an overview on the Executive Summary of the reclassification of IT jobs on campus and the recent open-mic night where the summary was presented and streamed over the IT Jobs website. She mentioned that the summary has been presented to Dr. White and VP for Human Resources Andy Brantley, and that it has been generally accepted. The next step is for Dr. White and Andy Brantley to go over the document carefully and present it to Provost Mace somewhere around January 15, 2005. All reclassifications will come back to managers for review and will then be sent to Duane Ritter and Lynn Burt at Human Resources. They are also looking at gathering
literature from colleges and departments in order to draw up a Support model for IT on campus. Other points discussed include:

- Members were asked to send any literature they may have that would support the molding of a support model to the IT Jobs team or to the listserv.

- A new job named specifically for telecommunications installers at TEC services has been created.

- Following White’s and Brantley’s review, the issue of salary raises will be discussed again.

- It was suggested that the Executive Summary be posted to the EITS Website.

- Dr. White recognized that the success of completing the IT Jobs project could be used to garner positive attention for IT on campus.

- The idea to present the IT Jobs model at the Fall EDUCAUSE Conference was discussed.

ITMF Bylaws Update – Christine Miller gave an update on the reconvening of the ITMF Bylaws Committee. She stated that the purpose of the reconvenation was to address membership gaps in ITMF membership. She suggested that discussion of ITMF Bylaws should be tabled until the IT Advisory Council (formerly the IT Council) meets and determines their role in relation to IT on campus. She also suggested that she (as Chair of the Bylaws Committee), Debbie Ellerson (as the ITMF representative to the IT Advisory Council) and Matt Blankenship (as Chair of ITMF) meet with Dr. White in the near future to discuss ITMF’s vision of IT on campus. Other points discussed include:

- It was suggested that the seven roles for IT professionals determined at the ITC retreat be posted to EITS’ new website.
- Dr. White told the group that the Agenda for the IT Advisory Council’s January meeting will be posted to EITS’ website as soon as it’s available.
- Dr. White offered to play a “diplomatic” role in reminding colleges/schools/IT shops of the function of ITMF and its open-door attendance policy.

With no other business to discuss, the group adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2005, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in room 137 of the Tate Center.
Minutes by Sarah Lee