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Executive Briefing on Campus-wide IT Strategic Planning

Date: January 19, 2010
To: Deans Council
From: Larry Levine, AVC for IT and CIO

In 1998 the Colorado Commission on Higher Education began requiring CU-Boulder to develop a campus-wide IT strategic plan every four years. Each plan is based on campus-wide input and typically results in setting major directions for IT. We are in the process of asking faculty, students, and staff to serve as chairs and members of planning committees addressing various IT directions. Areas of investigation are directly related to the Flagship 2030 fall 2009 Summary Report.

Areas of investigation include:

- Academic technology—how do we better support the faculty & graduate students, provide teaching and learning spaces and offer teaching and learning tools?
- Shared resources and support—what should our strategy be for: research computing and cyberinfrastructure, cloud computing, mobile computing, rich collaboration tools, web infrastructures, and improving the IT service model?
- Collaboration for effectiveness—how can we better partner with the schools and colleges, Libraries, UIS, Facilities Management, and Housing and Dining Services?
- Governance—how can we better communicate and demonstrate our value through transparency?

Faculty who will be providing leadership include: Russ Moore, Michele Jackson, Clayton Lewis, Joe Rosse, John Culshaw, and we are approaching Keith Maskus, Doug Duncan, Trish Rankin, Scott Peppet, and Lew Harvey. Other faculty members have agreed to serve on committees or review sections of the report.

Campus-wide IT Planning Process:

- Timeline: Kick-off January 2010. January-March committee work; April-May chapter drafts written and reviewed; June-July report compilation; August-campus-wide comment period; September finalization of report.
- Responsible organization: ITS with participation from campus constituencies as committee co-chairs and committee members.
- Outcome: comprehensive IT plan that guides entire IT environment (not just ITS).

General Directions for IT Plan 2010:

- Sharper focus on faculty needs
- Further development of instructional computing services
- Development of research computing/cyberinfrastructure
- A more holistic IT environment, emphasis on flexibility, transparency, service focus, and partnerships
- Maintain vigilance around security



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Communication regarding the IT campus-wide plan:

- Meeting with: the Chancellor's Executive Committee, the Boulder Faculty Assembly, Deans Council, Chairs Breakfast, Staff Council, IT Community Support Event, and ITIAG as well as conducted ~40 meeting with key campus constituencies.
- ITP website – coming soon
- Periodic campus communication – ememos, etc.
- Wiki for working groups

Previous IT Strategic Plans:

1998: Establishment of the faculty computer purchase program, formation of the Distributed Academic Technology Coordinators (DATCs), creation of the 4-tiered IT support model, formation of the CIO Office and IT Council.

2002: Development of the student and faculty/staff portal, maturation of IT infrastructure (i.e. Enterprise Directory, enterprise architecture), creation of the student IT literacy/fluency effort, launch of the IT Security Office, formation of IT Infrastructure Advisory Group (ITIAG).

2006: Coordination of email environment (Exchange for faculty/staff, external email provider for students), new network funding model, campus-wide MS site licensing, maturation of security environment with departmental IT risk assessments and disaster recovery/business continuity plans.