EITS Status and Activity Report for February 2015

Prepared by Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT)

1. Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings

    - *Lync Now Available for UGA Students, Faculty and Staff:* Microsoft's Lync is now available with UGAMail accounts. Lync is an instant messaging, video conferencing, and online meeting and presence tool that makes it easier for multiple people in an organization to collaborate on their efforts. Microsoft will rename Lync as Skype for Business this year. Lync is the latest service to be offered through UGAMail accounts, which also include OneDrive for Business and free Office ProPlus software downloads for all UGA students, faculty and staff. The EITS Help Desk has instructions on how to use Lync on its website at http://eitshelpdesk.uga.edu. For more information about Lync/Skype for Business, please contact Keith Martin by email at keith.martin@uga.edu.

    - *SecureUGA Training Deadline Extended:* The deadline for UGA faculty, staff, student workers and contractors to complete their SecureUGA training has been extended to March 31. The previous deadline was January 20. SecureUGA is an online security awareness training program mandated by University System of Georgia (USG) policy. SecureUGA helps UGA employees and contractors understand, identify and respond appropriately to information security threats. Current employees who have previously completed SecureUGA can select one of three options to meet the training requirements for SecureUGA, based on their needs. For more information about SecureUGA, please point a web browser to http://secure.uga.edu. For questions about SecureUGA, please contact Brian Rivers by email at brivers@uga.edu.

2. Support for Student Technology Services

    - *Funds Awarded for Student Technology Fee Projects:* The Office of the Vice President for Information Technology recently awarded one-time funding for initiatives funded by the UGA Student Technology Fee. The process started in August 2014, when there was a call for proposals. The Student Technology Fee Committee then reviewed those proposals and award letters were distributed in December. Overall, more than $1.2 million in one-time Student Technology Fee funds were awarded for 29 proposals. For more information about the Student Technology Fee, please contact Lynn Wilson at llatimer@uga.edu by email.

    - *Laptop Security Checkups Offered at UGA-Gwinnett Campus:* EITS recently held its Computer Health and Security Fair at the Gwinnett campus, which marked the first time the event had been held at one of the extended campuses. During the Computer Health and Security Fair, technical volunteers check the personal laptops of UGA students, faculty and staff to ensure they are free of viruses and malware, and, offer one-on-one security consultations. The fair has been a popular event at the Athens campus and Gwinnett leaders recently asked EITS to bring the fair to its campus for two days. EITS will hold the Computer Health and Security Fair in April at the Miller Learning Center. For more information about the Computer Health and Security Fair, please email Kerri Testement at kerriuga@uga.edu.

3. Support for Academic and Administrative Computing

- *Training Class Available on Using Office 365:* EITS is offering a training class, called "What Can UGAMail and Microsoft's Office 365 Do For You?," at UGA's Training and Development Center, on February 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. The free class is open to any UGA employee who wants to learn more about how to use UGAMail, which includes OneDrive for Business for file sharing, storage and collaboration. UGAMail is powered by Microsoft's Office 365 platform. EITS has partnered with Microsoft to offer this training opportunity. Participants may register for the class via UGA Training and Development's website at www.hr.uga.edu/training.

- *Email Policy Changed for Faculty and Staff:* The University recently updated its policy for sending official communications to faculty and staff. Now, all official email communications to employees from administrative systems, such as payroll, are sent only to UGAMail addresses. This is similar to a policy for students, which also specifies that official email communications will only be sent to UGAMail addresses. Previously, employees could register a "preferred email address" to receive such emails. That system has now been decommissioned. All employees are provided a UGAMail account. Employees are encouraged to check their UGAMail accounts on a regular basis. They may also choose to forward email from their UGAMail account to a third-party provider, such as Gmail. EITS notified affected employees of this recent change. For more information, please contact Russell A. Hatfield at hatfield@uga.edu by email.

- *URL Changes for Several Websites:* In recent weeks, EITS has transitioned several University websites used for administrative and academic services development purposes to new URLs. These web applications have been migrated to new servers to enhance security. The previous URLs for these specified websites will continue to redirect to their new URLs. However, visitors are encouraged to update their web browsers' bookmarks to the new URLs, as the old URLs will no longer work soon. A complete listing of these URL changes is available online at http://t.uga.edu/1dK.

4. Support for Research

- *Buy-In Program Available for New Cluster:* To encourage faculty use of the new cluster for the Georgia Advanced Computing Resources Center (GACRC), the Office of the Vice President for Information Technology is offering a matching program for an additional computing node at no cost, to match the ones purchased through the options available in this buy-in program. A total of $100,000 will be made available through the program in FY15 and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The GACRC is currently installing a major new cluster, called Sapelo, which will provide additional computational and storage services for researchers throughout the University. For more information, including specifics about the buy-in program, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

5. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *Funds Available for Wireless Network Access in Faculty, Staff Areas:* In order to expand faculty and staff access to the PAWS-Secure wireless network, the Office of the Vice President for Information Technology is offering a 50% subsidy towards installation of new PAWS-Secure wireless access. The University offers PAWS-Secure throughout the campus to areas primarily used by students through funds provided by the Student Technology Fee. For faculty and staff areas, wireless service is charged to departments. To

qualify for a subsidy, PAWS-Secure must be in areas primarily used by faculty and staff offices, or in meeting and collaboration spaces. A total of $100,000 is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Departments should request a quote for PAWS-Secure wireless service by using the form available at https://eits.uga.edu/support/request/cable. After a quote is received from EITS, it should be forwarded to the VPIT office with a memo seeking a 50% subsidy. For more information about this program, please contact Mike Luca at mlucas@uga.edu by email.

- *EITS Helping Units with Significant Relocations*: EITS has been extensively involved with units making major moves to other buildings throughout campus. One of the largest such projects is the opening of the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital located off College Station Road. The complex, which totals about 300,000 square feet among five buildings, is set to start operations in March. EITS has been working with the College of Veterinary Medicine to coordinate of a number of technical aspects of this large construction project, including Internet, wireless and phone services, along with instructional technology for classrooms. So far, EITS has deployed more than 200 wireless access points and 50 network switches at the complex. EITS is also working with the School of Social Work, the Graduate School, the Office of Sponsored Programs, and the Contracts and Grants Division to coordinate their technology needs for their moves around campus. The School of Social Work is moving to the Williams Street building that currently houses the Graduate School, which is moving to Terrell Hall. The Office of Sponsored Programs and the Contracts and Grants Division will move to Tucker Hall, which is where the School of Social Work is currently located. These moves of faculty, staff and resources require significant coordination among units and EITS to make these transitions as seamless as possible. For more information about these moves, please contact Mike Lucas at mlucas@uga.edu.

6. Did You Know?

- The EITS Office of Information Security is offering a free training class for UGA employees on how to avoid email scams. The class will be held on March 5, and will cover the most common types of email scams and phishing attacks, along with information on what motivates attacks and phish-spotting practices. Participants will learn how email scams and phishing work, and how to protect themselves from such attempts. The class, called "Avoid Email Scams," will be held at UGA's Training and Development Center on March 5, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Registration is available online at www.hr.uga.edu/training.

- The EITS Mentorship Council recently announced its pairings of mentors and protégés for its spring mentorship program cycle. The EITS Mentorship Program has grown in recent years to not only include participants across the University of Georgia in various units, but also a number of individuals across the University System of Georgia. This mentorship cycle includes several people from Georgia Southern University serving as mentors and protégés for employees at UGA. Overall, 22 mentorship pairs have been assigned for the spring semester. The EITS Mentorship Program was designed to offer volunteer mentors and protégés an opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences in specific topics or resources. There are two mentorship cycles each year. For more information, please point a web browser to http://eits.uga.edu/mentorship_program or email mentor@uga.edu.

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