EITS Status and Activity Report for January 2015

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

1. <u>Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings</u>

   - *Cost Recovery Forums To Be Held in January:* EITS will hold two open forums in January to highlight its cost recovery rates for FY16, which are now available online. Cost recovery services available through EITS include network support, data center server hosting, desktop support, the WEPA print kiosks, and campus-wide software, such as GoToMeeting and Adobe products. The forums are intended for department-level IT professionals and business services professionals who are interested in learning more about EITS cost recovery services, especially as part of the budget planning process. EITS personnel for each service will be available to answer questions. The forums will be held at the Georgia Center on January 23, from 10 a.m. to noon and January 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. To view the FY16 cost recovery rates, please point a web browser to http://eits.uga.edu/support/cost_recovery. For additional information about cost recovery services, please contact the Pam Burkhart at pamburk@uga.edu by email.

2. <u>Support for Student Technology Services</u>

   - *eLC Drop-in Sessions Available for Instructors:* The University System of Georgia (USG) has upgraded UGA's eLearning Commons (eLC) to a newer version of Desire2Learn, which powers the University's learning management system. The work for this upgrade resulted in eLC being unavailable for a week during the holidays. The upgrade primarily included enhancements to existing features in eLC and was not considered a major interface change. To assist faculty with eLC, including questions about the upgrade, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is offering drop-in sessions in January at the Miller Learning Center. Drop-in sessions are informal and allow instructors to get assistance setting up their gradebook, customizing their eLC homepage, editing course content, creating assignments, and more. A schedule of sessions is available at http://www.ctl.uga.edu/events/category/elc-workshops. For more information about eLC, please contact Sherry Clouser at sac@uga.edu by email.

3. <u>Support for Academic and Administrative Computing</u>

   - *Financial Reporting Tool Pilot Underway:* Staff from Finance and Administration and from EITS are participating in the early stages of a pilot that is reviewing financial reporting tools provided by a vendor. A successful proof-of-concept, built by the vendor, Simpler Systems, in November, has allowed select UGA staff to view accounting data within the platform hosted at the vendor's location. The pilot will be hosted on UGA's infrastructure. The pilot is expected to expand beyond financial accounting information to Campus Mail transactions, detailed payroll transactions, and potentially other financial reporting templates. If implemented, the new product will provide a centralized and unified platform for selected services, along with an easier reporting tool. For more information about this pilot, please contact Russell A. Hatfield at hatfield@uga.edu by email.

   - *Email Policy Change for Faculty and Staff:* The University is updating its policy for sending official communications to faculty and staff. Starting on January 16, all official email communications to employees from administrative systems, such as payroll, will be sent only to UGAMail addresses. This is similar to a policy for students, which also

specifies that official communications will only be sent to UGAMail addresses. Currently, employees may register their "preferred email address." This registration tool is presently available on a website that will be decommissioned on January 16. Since this policy was implemented more than a decade ago, business and functional processes at the University have changed. All employees are provided a UGAMail account. The change to the email policy for employees means the use of the "preferred email address" system will end and official email communications from administrative systems will only be sent to UGAMail addresses. Employees may forward email from UGAMail to a third-party provider, such as Gmail. EITS will notify employees who have registered a preferred email address about the coming change. For more information, please contact Russell A. Hatfield at hatfield@uga.edu by email.

4. Support for Research

- *New Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals for the GACRC:* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resources Center (GACRC) Advisory Committee recently revised its vision, mission, and strategic goals for the GACRC. A subcommittee, which had been reviewing those items, provided feedback to the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the Vice President for Information Technology on its proposals. The revised strategic goals are: Providing shared technological resources for the UGA community to maximize availability, ease-of-use, and security; provide shared human resources to support the UGA community in large-scale computing and to maximize capabilities knowledge/coverage, while minimizing time to product; and to advance large-scale computing at UGA through advocacy and training, introduction and evolution of advanced technological capabilities, and the facilitation of access to national resources. For more information about the GACRC, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

- *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

- *IP Address Management System Transition Completed:* Working with its unit-level IT colleagues, EITS has coordinated the transition of the University's legacy IP address management system to a commercially-available product called BlueCat. This transition was completed on December 19. BlueCat is considered the industry standard for managing IP addresses, which allows devices to connect to a network. By decommissioning the legacy IP address management system, the University can ultimately reduce risk and improve service availability to manage and assign IP addresses. When configured, BlueCat allows users to self-register their computers and other devices to wired networks. IT professionals from all units worked closely on this extensive project to plan, train, and transition their networks to BlueCat. For more information about BlueCat, please contact Brian Rivers at brivers@uga.edu by email.

6. Did You Know?

    - UGA students, faculty, and staff can easily change their UGAMail address through the EITS website. This tool allows students and employees to conveniently change their UGAMail address without also changing their MyID. Currently, most employee and student email addresses display their MyID as part of their email addresses (myid@uga.edu). By creating a new email address that does not include their MyID, users can limit the public display of their MyID. To change a UGAMail email address, please point a web browser to http://myid.uga.edu.

    - The Technology Lending Program at the Miller Learning Center allows UGA students to borrow laptops, tablets, and audio and visual equipment. Students may select which equipment to borrow for a specified time ranging from a few hours to several days. The Technology Lending Program allows students to use equipment for audio and visual projects, class assignments, and other special projects. The equipment includes iPads, digital cameras, and camcorders. Laptops are the most popular item students borrow through the Technology Lending Program, which is funded by the Student Technology Fee. For more information about the Technology Lending Program, please point a web browser to http://mlc.uga.edu/technology/laptops.html.

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