

Vice President for Information Technology Status and Activity Report for January 2016

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

1. Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings

- *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 2015, when there was a call for proposals. The Student Technology Fee Committee then reviewed those proposals and award letters were distributed in December. Overall, \$800,000 in one-time Student Technology Fee funds were awarded for 22 proposals. For more information about the Student Technology Fee, please contact Lynn Wilson at llatimer@uga.edu.

2. Support for Student Technology Services

- *eLC Upgraded During Winter Break:* eLearning Commons (eLC), the University's learning management system, was upgraded by the University System of Georgia in December to a newer version of Brightspace by D2L. The upgrade improved existing tools of eLC, but did not include major design changes. The complete list of changes is available at <http://wwwctl.uga.edu/elc/2015-upgrade>. For more information about eLC or this upgrade, please contact Sherry Clouser at sac@uga.edu or 706-542-0525. For technical questions, please contact the EITS Help Desk at 706-542-3106 or helpdesk@uga.edu, or the University System of Georgia's D2L Help Center at <https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/>.
- *MATLAB Available in Main, Science Libraries:* MATLAB, a high-level language and interactive environment for numerical computation, visualization, and programming, is now available on all computers in the Main and Science libraries. Using MATLAB, users can analyze data, develop algorithms, and create models and applications. MATLAB is also available through the UGA vLab (vlab.uga.edu). In addition, UGA students, faculty and staff can install MATLAB on their personal machines, as well as any University-owned computer. For more information about MATLAB, visit <http://t.uga.edu/1Th> or contact Mike Lucas at mlucas@uga.edu.
- *New Print Kiosks Installed Main Library, Carnegie Library:* New wepa print kiosks have been installed at the Main Library and the new Carnegie Library on the UGA Health Sciences Campus. Documents can be uploaded to the cloud or stored on a USB drive and then printed from any kiosks across campus for a small fee. The print kiosks offer both black and white and color printing and accept credit and debit cards, as well as Bulldog Bucks. The Main Library now has three kiosks, including one that is wheelchair accessible. EITS installed a new print kiosk at the Main Library, based on feedback from the Student Government Association (SGA). The UGA Health Sciences campus now has two print kiosks. For more information, including a listing of print kiosk locations, visit <http://printkiosk.uga.edu>. For questions, please contact Tommy Jones at tomjones@uga.edu.

3. Support for Academic and Administrative Computing

- *Upgrade to Kronos Time, Attendance System Planned for Spring:* EITS is working with Finance and Administration to upgrade Kronos (mytime.uga.edu), the time and

attendance system for hourly and salaried bi-weekly employees. The upgrade is tentatively planned for spring semester. With the upgrade to version 8.0, users will be able to use Flash, instead of Java for enhanced functionality that Java currently provides. The Kronos user interface will also undergo significant visual and navigation changes, which will offer a more modern time and attendance system. Kronos version 8.0 contains “multi-job” functionality, which is a new feature that has been requested by the campus community for several years. Mobile manager licenses are included in this upgrade and will provide supervisors who are not normally in an office an improved method for approving employee time cards using a smartphone. Also, longstanding issues with payroll export, interfaces, will be resolved. For more information, please contact Christine Edell at cedell@uga.edu.

- *Enterprise Data Warehouse Available:* The ConnectUGA team has launched the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW), which uses data from Banner to provide historic information, trend reporting and analytics that are valuable to the University. Over time, EDW will allow the University to efficiently capture data at certain points of time (called snapshots) and evaluate trend data. EDW is now functional and taking snapshots for an initial subset of student data. Resources are being provided to functional areas at the University to validate and verify the data. Once confirmed, the initial implementation will be complete and functional areas will be able to start developing reports focusing on trend analysis. For more information about the Enterprise Data Warehouse, please contact Ilir Hasko at ihasko@uga.edu.
- *Student Data Being Defined for Data Cookbook:* The ConnectUGA strategic reporting committee is defining student data for common business terms used widely across the University. The terms are being made available in the Data Cookbook, a product being used by the ConnectUGA project to facilitate both the defining and sharing of data, as well as a repository for the list of reports and related specifications. To date, there have been 94 definitions defined and approved for the Data Cookbook. These terms include, but are not limited to, the following: registered student, enrolled student, course level, term credits, race, institutional honors, etc. The strategic reporting committee is continuing to work on defining additional terms that are used in the most widely distributed reports. For more information about student data definitions, please contact Ilir Hasko at ihasko@uga.edu.

4. Support for Research

- *Training Available for GACRC Researchers:* More training sessions are now available for researchers interested in using The Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC). Researchers using the GACRC’s resources for the first time are required to complete an introductory training session. The training sessions help researchers understand how to use the computational and storage resources available through the GACRC. Training opportunities are posted on the GACRC’s website at <http://gacrc.uga.edu/help/training>. For more information, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier, Director of Research Computing, at gcormier@uga.edu.

5. Data Reporting and Analytics

- *Graduate School Data Available in Argos:* Working collaboratively with the Graduate School, the ConnectUGA reporting team has made graduate admissions and enrollment reports available in Argos. These reports will provide better visibility to Banner student data used for graduate program strategic planning efforts. For more information about these reports or the Argos reporting tool, please contact Ilir Hasko at ihasko@uga.edu.

6. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *Survey to Help Improve Wireless Service in Residence Halls:* Based on feedback from students, EITS will conduct a survey of wireless service in University Housing. The survey data will be used to determine plans for technical improvements to wireless service in residence halls. Residents in University Housing will receive an email on January 12 asking them to complete the brief survey by February 2. Once completed, the survey data will help EITS identify areas to target for wireless service enhancements in the residence halls. For questions about the survey, please visit <http://t.uga.edu/202> or contact Kerri Testament at kerriuga@uga.edu.

7. Did You Know?

- Since its launch on December 1, the new ticketing system, called TeamDynamix, has processed more 13,500 requests for EITS. TeamDynamix replaced Remedy for processing IT support requests and web form requests. With the new system, students, faculty and staff have greater insight in the progress of their IT support requests. TeamDynamix also streamlines communications between customers and technicians, which results in improved response times. Students, faculty and staff can view the progress of their IT support requests at itsupport.uga.edu. For more information about TeamDynamix, visit <http://t.uga.edu/1Zn>.
- Effective January 16, 2016, Microsoft will only support the most current version of Internet Explorer (IE) for a supported operating systems. For Windows 7 and Windows 8.1, that will be IE11. For Windows Server 2012, it will be IE10. For Windows Vista, it will only be IE9. Older web browsers will continue to work, but Microsoft will no longer provide security patches and updates, effective January 16. Microsoft is recommending that web applications that depend on earlier versions (such as, IE8) plan to upgrade to maintain security and performance. Microsoft is also recommending users upgrade to a newer version of IE or switch to Edge, its new web browser. By only using a web browser that provides security patches and updates, users minimize potential security compromises for their devices and to University systems. For more information on this change, please visit Microsoft's website at: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/gp/microsoft-internet-explorer>.

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