CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Committee Hears Future of IT on Campus

UF Information Technology

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Committee Hears Future of IT on Campus

The explosive growth of information technology on the UF campus in recent years has prompted a report that takes a look at how to best coordinate, implement and use these resources. A panel of experts appointed by Vice Provost Charles Frazier recently scrutinized technology on campus in order to come up with better ways to use and manage it.

Fedro Zazueta, director of the IFAS Information Technology Office and a member of the IT Review committee, presented a report that resulted from a year-long study of Information Technology resources on campus. This UF Provost-directed report was presented at the May meeting of the NERDC Instruction and Research Users Committee.

The Information Technology Report covers all aspects of technology on campus, from training to network hardware.

"We must take advantage of new technologies available to us," Zazueta said.

IT Review committee members looked at how the University of Florida has handled the sudden growth of technology on campus, and how other faculty and students from universities across the nation use technology resources.

The main recommendations that came out of the IT Committee's report deal with the following issues:

- Leadership and organization
- Networking
- Research computing
- Instructional computing
- Institutional data and systems
- Planning
- IT staff hiring, development and retention
- Training

Zazueta said that one of the main problems the committee found on campus is the lack of coordination. The IT Review committee recommended the creation of a Vice Provost of Information Technology. "This person should understand the University's mission and day-to-day business.

He or she should be able to communicate with a wide group of constituents and bring consensus to the table. He or she must orient the organization towards customers and quality of service, as well as have technical abilities," he said.

The report also recommends a coordinated approach to networking on campus. "Plans are to
consolidate the network infrastructure.

Network resources are best coordinated centrally," Zazueta said.

Long-term implementation of the report's findings should help UF become a premier technology institution. Better coordination of computing resources will also lead to economies of scale to help the university save money and reduce duplication of efforts.

You can find the full IT Review Committee report at http://www.aa.ufl.edu/itr.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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