

## RECORD OF ACTIONS

ITAC Meeting  
February 14, 2005

Present: Mr. Jay Blaire, Ms. Donna Coker, Mr. Antonio Espinosa, Dr. Hans Graber, Ms. Ellen Greenfield, Mr. Joe Hutchins, Mr. Scott Ingold, Dr. Mansur Kabuka, Mr. Tim Ramsay, Mr. Fred Robinson, Mr. Tom Ruthven, Mr. Stewart Seruya, Dr. James Shelly, Dr. M. Lewis Temares, Mr. Bill Vilberg, Dr. Rod Zika and Dr. Otis Brown, Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 1605 in the College of Engineering, McArthur Building, Room 289.

1. The Record of Actions for the December 13, 2005 meeting was approved with minor revisions.
2. Transition to a "strategic" role
  - a. Introduction

Please see Attachment A, *Some potentially strategic topics of interest*, Otis Brown summarized the attachment.

The chair noted that we could rebalance the role of ITAC in many ways. As a start to discussions he suggested that there are at least three major areas of interest/focus for the ITAC, which may be of broad interest to the group, Major Initiatives, Academic and Research Applications and Infrastructure. This introduction provoked an extended discussion, reported below.

- b. Strategic Planning

Bill Vilberg discussed possible roles for ITAC in planning. These might include nascent activities on the horizon or closer, a policy basis for choosing directions, etc. He suggested that having schools and colleges intimately involved in the choice of directions early, would expedite implementation and broad buy in. As an example, he suggested "Pod casting". The Educause analog is their "Emerging Technology Report".

ITAC might want to have an annual refreshed "top ten issues" for IT. The Educause list includes many that resonate with the current UM experience. An example might be "Distance Learning".

Hans Graber commented that position papers with well-researched fiscal implications would not lead to a good discussion, decision or implementation. He suggested that the ITAC also has the role of being an advocate for new ideas.

Ellen Greenfield noted that nothing is stopping the ITAC from dealing with strategic matters. Could ITAC change its role without a title change? (Probably).

Hans Graber stated that he could only remember three items over the past decade that were strategic in nature. Topics included: post-Hurricane Andrew assessment and subsequent response, the changing of Internet access use from science to a public utility, and the Internet 2 implementation. Further, he noted that the ITAC has not had a strategic focus recently. Its time has been spent hearing reports rather than focusing on policy to guide IT investments.

Lewis Temares commented that the Florida Lambda Rail discussions should qualify as strategic in nature.

Ellen Greenfield stated that she was not aware of plans and/or capitalization for keeping the broad IT infrastructure current.

Greenfield also noted that some policy aspects such as the UM financial system did not appear to have strong “end-user” participation, and, would benefit from broader stakeholder involvement in the decision process.

Several ITAC members commented on high performance computing at UM. There were questions raised about connectivity with the Boca “Blue Gene” machine and the LA Grid.

Ellen Greenfield asked when would someone/who should examine UM IT needs.

Scott Ingold suggested that a retreat-like meeting might be a better venue for discussion of strategic topics. Committee members were in general agreement that this would be a good mechanism for in-depth discussion of several of these topics.

This discussion concluded with the Chair requesting Bill Vilberg to develop a list of candidate strategic issues that would be shared with the ITAC.

## 8. Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 1708.

**NOTE: The next ITAC meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., College of Engineering, McArthur Building, Room 289.**

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