January 13, 2003

TO: University Planning Council Information Technology Committee

FROM: Michael Dieckmann

Associate Vice President for Information Technology

RE: Status Report

Following is a brief status update report on various information technology issues and initiatives.

**COLLEGIS Study**

We have heard nothing new from COLLEGIS since the last Committee meeting.

**ERP System Project**

The UWF Board of Trustees, at their January 6 conference call meeting, approved UWF’s SAMAS/FLAIR transition plan, including the proposal and budget for purchasing and implementing the SCT Banner Finance and Human Resource systems. The complete action item for the Board is included in the January 6 meeting agenda materials on their web site (uwf.edu/trustees), and has also been posted in NAUTICAL under the UPC-IT Committee as an “additional information” item.

We are currently finalizing contracts with SCT, and putting in place the management and oversight structure for the project. The project is scheduled to begin on January 21, when SCT’s project manager will make an initial visit to campus.

We are preparing a web site and information materials for the project; once these are complete, we will begin making presentations to various groups (Faculty Senate, A&P Council, USPS Council, college faculty councils, etc.) and also an information campaign for the entire university community.

**LMS Selection Project**

Nothing new to report since the last Committee meeting. The Center for University Teaching and Learning is scheduling on-campus demonstrations for the five vendors that were selected for the “short list.” They are Angel, Blackboard, eCollege, Educator, and WebCT.

**Upgraded Network Circuit for Fort Walton Beach Campus**

Over the December holiday break the upgraded network circuit linking the Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach campuses was placed into service. The new 6 mbps fiber-based Ethernet circuit from Cox Communications replaces the two T-1 circuits (1.5 mbps each) that previously linked our campuses.
new circuit is divided into two bands, 3 mbps for instructional videoconferencing and 3 mbps for data traffic, effectively doubling the bandwidth previously available for these services. The main stimulus for the upgrade was the increased need for videoconferencing bandwidth coming from the two new instructional videoconferencing classrooms that were created primarily for the electrical and computer engineering program.

This circuit also serves as the Fort Walton Beach campus’ connection to the Internet.

**Classroom Technology Upgrades**

Over the December break, five generally-scheduled classrooms on the Pensacola campus were fitted for network access and multimedia presentation: building 10 room 103, building 11 rooms 121 and 122, building 36 room 108, and building 52 room 152. Instructor podiums are being constructed, and will be installed later this term. When complete, this will increase the number of “hi-tech” University-scheduled classrooms to 31. 39% (20 out of 51) of Pensacola campus generally-scheduled classrooms remain unequipped for technology.

A small improvement was also made to five of our oldest technology-equipped classrooms. Connection ports for network and projectors were moved from underneath the older podiums (where the instructor was literally required to crawl on the floor to make connections) to a more convenient desktop location. Affected classrooms are 13/230, 51/152, 52/152A, 74/101, and 74/102.

**Upgrades to SAIL and CyberLounge Computer Labs**

Today the SAIL and CyberLounge computer labs reopened with new computers. The Gateway Profile 4 machines were purchased using new funding allocated this year to ITS to establish a three-year upgrade cycle for these computer labs. The Profiles have an all-in-one compact design that allows ITS to place a few more computers in each lab. The machines have 2.6 GHz Pentium 4 processors, 512 MB of memory, combination DVD reader and CD burner drives, and 17” LCD flat panel display screens.

**ITS Online Web Site**

ITS continues to build the ITS Online web site (its.uwf.edu) as the focal point for its web-based information resources. The comprehensive catalog of services (under “Getting Help”) provides information on all services provided by ITS. “ITS News” has information articles related to information technology news and events. The “Plans and Projects” area has information on current ITS projects, strategic plans, and other reports.

The next section added to ITS Online will be “IT at UWF.” This area will have overview information about UWF’s information technology environment, an IT “fact book,” and a UWF response to EDUCAUSE’s Consumer’s Guide to Evaluating Campus Information Technology.

**Classroom Technology Wireless Networking Pilot Projects**

This term, ITS will begin a number of wireless networking pilot projects in collaboration with other university units. The main projects will be a pilot implementation of wireless networking in the John C.
Pace Library involving their laptop computer checkout service; a wireless laptop cart loaned to the Center for University Teaching and Learning for use in the interactive distance learning studio classrooms; a residence hall networking wireless project in the south-side (aka “Pizza Hut”) dorms; and hopefully at least one classroom wireless project in each College. In December I asked the deans to identify their priorities for instructional wireless networking pilot projects, and I hope to have their responses by the end of this month.

**Internet2 Membership for UWF**

President Cavanaugh has identified Internet2 membership as a priority, and it is also a priority need for the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition. Establishing Internet2 for UWF involves two activities: first, applying for and securing Internet2 membership; and second, establishing high-bandwidth connectivity to the Abilene Internet2 backbone network. We are currently working on both fronts.

I will be establishing an Internet2 coordinating team, and will be asking each college and the Library to identify prospective Internet2 projects and a faculty representative to serve on the coordinating team.

**ArgoNet II**

ITS is targeting the break between spring and summer terms for the release of ArgoNet II, the next evolution of the ArgoNet environment. This will be a massive project, as it involves not just migrating the central infrastructure, but also helping the colleges convert every ArgoNet-enabled student computer lab to the ArgoNet II environment.

ArgoNet II will be based on Microsoft’s Active Directory Service (ADS) rather than Novell. ArgoNet II will also include the release of a new central data and database storage service, new capabilities for administering servers and computer lab workstations, and an enhanced version of the Print Queue Administrator (PQA) utility that will be available for use by any University computer lab. The ArgoNet II initiative is being led by Melanie Haveard and Michael White in ITS. They will soon begin working with college and Fort Walton Beach campus computer lab managers to help them prepare for the ArgoNet II conversion.

**CIO Objectives for the Remainder of 2002-2003**

At a recent meeting with my new boss, Senior Vice President Hal White, I supplied him with a list of my proposed goals and objectives for the next two quarters. The list is reproduced below for your information and feedback. I've highlighted items that specifically involve the Committee.

**January – March 2003**

- Initiate the SCT Banner ERP system project, and get it successfully underway under the ongoing leadership of project managers and a coordinating committee.
- Work with the Center for University Teaching and Learning to select a new learning management system to replace Prometheus.
  - Work with the UPC-IT Committee to produce a plan for a student information technology services fee.
  - Work with the UPC-IT Committee to produce a budgeting model for full life-cycle funding for information technology.
• Work with the UPC-IT Committee to produce a comprehensive University-wide strategic plan for information technology.

• Work with Telecommunications to select a plan for the renewal of our expiring telecommunications infrastructure contracts; seek to leverage this opportunity into a corporate IT partnership for UWF.

• Implement Internet2 membership and connectivity for UWF.

• Reconstitute the NWRDC Technical Committee and chair it for the next year. (Objective assigned by NWRDC Policy Board.)

• Lead ITS in making major progress on wireless networking infrastructure and pilot projects.

• Produce a proposal for Dr. Wooten for integrating Telecommunications Services into ITS.

• Draft and submit a revision to the email policy concerning mass emails to employees and use of the GroupMail system.

• Work with the UWF Web Developers group to formalize a new vision for web publishing services at UWF.

• Contribute to the SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation process.

• Fulfill responsibilities to the EDUCAUSE Award for Excellence in Administrative Systems committee (second year of membership on this committee).

• Attend the National Science Foundation Middleware Initiative Campus Architecture and Middleware Planning workshop on February 5-7. Use information learned there to plan the next evolution of the ArgoNet infrastructure.

• Submit a presentation proposal for the EDUCAUSE Southeast Regional Conference.

• Oversee the ongoing development of the ITS Online web site and improved ITS communication mechanisms.

• Populate the UPIC system with required information for ITS.

• Continue to lead the organizational transformation and knowledge management/process improvement initiative in ITS.

• Serve as ITS executive director.

April – June 2003

• Work with the UPC-IT Committee to identify information technology issues and priorities for 2003-2004, and submit report to the University Planning Council.

• Work with the UPC-IT Committee to establish baseline technology standards and purchasing procedures for UWF.

• Work with the new Vice President for Development (if hired yet) on securing corporate IT sponsorships and partnerships.

• Produce a plan and budget for expanding administrative videoconferencing capabilities at UWF.

• Oversee the ongoing progress of the SCT Banner ERP system project.

• Produce a plan for reacting to the State’s outsourcing of FIRN and its implications for UWF.

• Produce a proposal for reorganizing LSP technology support services at UWF.

• Establish UWF participation in the COSTS Project study and the EDUCAUSE Core Data Project.
• Submit an article to *EDUCAUSE Quarterly* discussing UWF’s *Collective* system.
• Contribute to the SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation process.
• Attend the EDUCAUSE Southeast Regional Conference (June 18-20).
• Oversee the ongoing development of the *ITS Online* web site and improved ITS communication mechanisms.
• Continue to lead the organizational transformation and knowledge management/process improvement initiative in ITS.
• Serve as ITS executive director.
• Produce a 2003-2004 budget request and funding priorities list for information technology and ITS.
• Produce a 2002-2003 annual report for ITS and the Office of the CIO.
• Produce 2003-2004 strategic goals and objectives for ITS.
  • Work with the UPC-IT Committee to develop a plan and schedule for updating all university IT policies in 2003-2004.