INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Division of Student Affairs does not have an Information Technology Plan. Because of the individualized needs of each department, technology needs and plans are discussed by each director with the Vice President for Student Affairs as part of the division’s planning and budgeting processes. Most departments rely heavily on the University’s administrative/student computer systems. The Office of Financial Aid has a great need for programming, records maintenance, and other technological support.

Much of the networking, technical, and training support is handled by personnel in each department and by the division’s half-time computer support technician. A concentrated effort has been made in the last three years to update hardware. Currently, a complete inventory of all computer hardware and software is being conducted. This information will be used to develop a computer replacement plan for the division.

Accomplishments:

- COMPASS, Computerized Access to Student Services, became available on November 12, 1998. This interactive information system allows students to access their grades, holds, class schedule, and financial aid records through the Internet on Nautical. Beginning next semester, students may access this same information at several information kiosks to be placed in strategic campus locations. COMPASS is a joint project of ITS, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Administrative Affairs units.

- A small computer lab is being established in the Commons. This lab will provide computer stations and well as lap top ports.

Immediate Needs and Concerns:

- Completion of the Financial Aid automated packaging system for awards is in its final stages of development. The completion of this project is essential to timely financial awards and delivery.

- A better system of records management is needed, particularly in the Office of Financial Aid. Document imaging, including workflow and COLD (computer outlay to laser disk) components, will also assist other offices within and outside the division.

- A computer-based testing program is needed if the University is to continue as a standardized testing site. The biggest impediment to its initiation is lack of a designated physical facility.
Future Needs

- Residence halls need to have direct connections to the computer center.

12/30/98