

COUNCIL ON INFORMATION RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY (CIRT)

February 23, 1999

Mission

The mission of the Council on Information Resources and Technology is to provide policy and planning guidance for the use of information resources and technology in the educational, research, and administrative environment of the University. University-wide in its focus, the Council is an advisory body to the Provost and University leadership. It will track developments in technology and help shape Emory's strategic use of technology and information resources to achieve institutional goals, objectives, and priorities. The Council will define the role of technology and information resources in the mission of the University, recommend effective ways to execute this role, define priorities and funding strategies to recommend to the Provost to achieve these initiatives, and determine how the University relates to external organizations and national initiatives in the areas of technology and information resources.

Organization

CIRT may divide itself into working groups to address the various issues that arise or are referred to it. Persons with specific expertise, both from inside and outside Emory, may be called upon to assist the Council. Working groups may meet relatively often in focusing on a specific issue; the Council as a whole is expected to meet on a quarterly basis. The quarterly meetings will be planned to address broad issues and recommendations for action coming from the working groups, other campus bodies, or senior administrators. The quarterly meetings will typically be for half a day.

The Council will have direct working relations with the Web Council and the Information Technology Architecture Committee and may refer issues to both of these recently established bodies. Since the Information Technology Architecture Committee and the Web Council focus on broad issues of fundamental importance to the digital environment at Emory and to strategic directions, they need to report recommendations and findings to CIRT for review. Other advisory groups working with both the Library and the Information Technology Division, e.g., the soon to be established ITD Advisory Committee; the Y2K Committee; the Academic Computing Advisory Committee (ACAC); the Library Policy Committee (a Senate body); the Librarians Council; and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which is made up of Deans' IT representatives and gives advice to ITD on technical matters, will likely all have issues that need to be referred to CIRT for review, but they do not report directly to the Council.

Membership

The membership of the Council, appointed by the Provost, will be selected to reflect the broad scope of its mission and to act in support of the overall mission of the University. It will normally include the Vice Provost for Information Technology, the Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, faculty members, a dean, and central University administration. The Chair will be a representative of the Provost and will report directly to her. There may be a non-Emory person invited to participate to provide broad national and international perspective on issues being addressed.

The first Chair will be Chancellor Billy Frye and the Co-chair will be Dean Steven Sanderson, Vice President for Arts and Sciences and Dean of Emory College.

Funding for CIRT

Funding and staff support may be required for various studies, data-gathering and analyses. Provisions will need to be made to continue the commitments for projects and initiatives undertaken under grant money awarded by the predecessor of CIRT, the Digital Information Resources Council.

Key issues to be addressed by CIRT include the following:

- Strategies for positioning Emory short-term and long-term for accomplishing its mission in higher education.
- Recommendations for undertaking action and initiatives of strategic importance in the realm of technology and information resources.
- Recommendations for apportioning limited funding for information resources, new technology, and continuation of other uses of technology.
- Guidelines for base-line services and access to information resources and technology to be provided to the Emory community and how these will be funded.