

Emory University
I/T Architecture Committee

Presentation to
University Senate
February 22, 2000

What is an I/T architecture?

- Set of guidelines and policies for acquiring new I/T resources and deploying them in a consistent and cost-effective way
- “Town plan”
 - Says where buildings go and how the roads connect them
 - Sets direction and standards (e.g. building codes, but not building “program”)
 - Allows for exceptions when appropriate

Why an I/T Architecture?

- Goal:
 - Emory information resources are easily accessible
 - Emory I/T systems work together
 - Emory I/T systems can evolve fast enough to keep up with Emory's changing needs
 - Provides guidance for making I/T decisions
- University spends time and money on I/T anyway, so let's get the most benefit from it
- Not a spending plan, but a framework which helps to evaluate future spending proposals

Example of Architecture

- Goal: interdisciplinary scholarship
- Faculty need to share documents via email
- Architectural elements needed
 - campus backbone and departmental networks, using compatible protocols
 - compatible network security systems
 - compatible email systems
 - standards for file formats
- Lack of “I/T architecture” is unnecessary barrier to interdisciplinary goal

Committee Charter

- Chartered by Provost
- “Lead a process to create an I/T architecture which is consistent with the goals of the University as a whole”
- Consistent with Healthcare IS
- Ongoing role for Committee as architecture evolves

Committee members

- **Dean Hunter (chair, Law)**
- **Prof. Kraftchick (Theology)**
- **Prof. Warren (Medicine)**
- **Prof. Konsynski or Barbara Maaskant (GBS)**
- **Carole Meyers (Emory College)**
- **Myra Frady (Oxford College)**
- **Martin Halbert (General Libraries)**
- **Rosalie Sanderson (Law School Library)**
- **Walt Hultgren (Yerkes)**
- **Chris Alexander or Belinda Maaskant (SPH)**
- **Don Corcoran (ONC)**
- **John Mason (HC IS)**
- **Peter Day (ITD)**
- **Paul Morris (ITD)**

Process for creating architecture

- Phases:
 - Agree on common Vision, and I/T requirements
 - Overall concept, then technical recommendations
 - Actions needed to achieve vision
 - Continuing review
- For each phase, Committee drafts proposal
- Communication and feedback:
 - Deans, VP's, CIRT, University Senate, ITD Advisory Committee, etc.
- Revised draft to Ways & Means, President's Cabinet for approval

University Goals?

- Inferred Goals:
 - Teaching Excellence
 - Research Program Excellence
 - Intellectual Community
 - Interdisciplinary Scholarship
 - Internationalization
- How do we know when we have reached them?
- What are our priorities for resources?

Supporting Goals and Strategies?

- Enriched Student Experience
- Increased Giving to Emory
- Increased Revenue from Research
- Access to Information
- Connectivity to Support Teaching and Research
- Additional Research Space
- Cost Control
- Operational Support

Does Architecture Mean Too Much Control?

- “Distributed” I/T environment is good
 - closer to the users
 - more attuned and responsive to their particular needs
- “Balkanized” I/T environment is bad
 - people doing things which isolate themselves
 - spending too much time and money on re-inventing wheels
- Architecture Committee will look for the right balance

Next Steps

- Revise draft Document 1 based on feedback
- Web site at <http://www.emory.edu/EITA/>
- Get approval
- Create Document 2: Specifics on proposed policies and standards
- Circulate, revise, get approval
- Target: complete initial architecture by end of calendar 2000
- Continuing evolution thereafter