

March 28, 2000

To: CODVC

From: John Bruno, Vice Provost—Information and Educational Technology

Re: **Proposal for the creation of a *Technology Infrastructure Forum***

Computing environments in research universities are typically decentralized with a great degree of local autonomy. However, "... when Information Technology services become fundamental to the daily operation of the university, that is, when they become the equivalent of basic utilities, they require centralized coordination to attain maximum reliability and universal equity of access."¹

I am proposing the creation of a new campus-wide committee called the **Technology Infrastructure Forum** to provide a mechanism for centralized coordination of the UC Davis information technology infrastructure, especially the *middleware* infrastructure.²

Purpose. The purpose of Technology Infrastructure Forum is to engage the technology leaders at UC Davis in an on-going evaluation of critical information technologies in support of the mission of the University. This group will identify and evaluate key information technology initiatives including proposals for infrastructure coordination, development, and deployment.

Membership. The Forum will include a technical representative from each of the colleges, schools, administrative units, the Library, and UCDMC. Appointees are expected to devote time to activities associated with the Technology Infrastructure Forum including time spent outside regular meetings of the Forum. The chair of the Technical Infrastructure Forum is appointed by the Vice Provost—Information and Educational Technology.

Reporting Structure. The Technology Infrastructure Forum will make recommendations to the Vice Provost—Information and Educational Technology. As appropriate, these recommendations will be presented to the Academic and Administrative Computing Coordinating Councils and the Information Technology Policy Board. The minutes of the meetings will be distributed to the Deans/Directors/Vice Chancellors.

Your Support. The Technology Infrastructure Forum requires your support to be effective. Are you willing to offer a fraction of your lead technical person's time to the work of the Forum?

Example Technology Infrastructure Issues

- Authentication services (who are you?)
- Authorization services (what are you allowed to do?)
- Directory services (information repository)
- Active directory services (deployment of Windows 2000)
- Public key infrastructure (electronic signatures)
- Incident response protocol (network and system incidents)

UCDAVIS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Office of the Vice Provost—Information and Educational Technology

- Campus-wide Information Technology Policy and Planning
- Division of Information Technology
 - Information Resources (Computing Services)
 - Communications Resources (Communications Services)
 - Reprographics (Document Services)
 - Instructional Technology and Digital Media Center (new)

Information Technology Committee Structure

- Information Technology Policy Board
 - Academic Computing Coordinating Council
 - Administrative Computing Coordinating Council
 - Network Operations Advisory Committee
 - Technology Infrastructure Forum*

REFERENCES

1. Decentralized Information Technology Requires Central Coordination, Michalak, Facelli, and Drew, CAUSE/EFFECT, Vol. 22, No.4, 1999. www.educause.edu/ir/library/html/cem9948.html
2. Middleware: The Second Layer of IT Infrastructure, K. Klingenstein, CAUSE/EFFECT, Vol. 22, No. 4, 1999. www.educause.edu/ir/library/html/cem9942.html