

TO: Senate Steering Committee
FROM: Jane Brockmann, Chair of Infrastructure Council
RE: Infrastructure Council Annual Report 2008-09

A. Summary of 2008-2009 Activities of the Infrastructure Council (IC).

1. **IT governance and the IT Action Plan (ITAP).** An IT Action Plan was requested by President Machen and it was discussed repeatedly through the year as the plan developed. Early in the process the IC discussed a number of options for IT governance structures. The IC favored a structure that utilized IT committees within colleges to approve decisions locally to the extent possible and IT committees that would be comprised of both faculty users and IT providers. This is the structure that was adopted by the ITAP. In addition, the ITAP instituted a decision-making body (VPs) that makes IT decisions at a higher level, giving coherence to UF-IT. The IC reviewed and approved the governance component of the ITAP. Mark Orazem volunteered to serve on this Task Force as a representative of the Senate and the IC. This turned out to be a major commitment of time and effort and we thank him for his service.

2. **CMS Course Management System (CMS).** This year the IT-CMS committee worked to find a new course management system for the University and the IC discussed this important new initiative repeatedly throughout the year. The considerations were such factors as ease of use in gradebook, assignments, testing, compatibility with other electronic systems, uploading and downloading, chat rooms, and tutorials as well as price, support and security issues. Rae Jesano agreed to attend the CMS meetings as a representative of the IC, which turned out to be a major commitment and we thank her for her service.

3. **IT Security Issues.** Chuck Frazier discussed the recent breaches in IT security. This is an issue that will need to be addressed in the coming year.

4. **Academic Technology.** Jane Brockmann serves as a representative to the ITAC-AT committee from the IC.

5. **Making UF databases faculty friendly.** The IC discussed on several occasions how difficult it is for faculty to download the information they need for annual activities reports, tenure and promotion packages and other awards. The IC specifically requested that faculty should be able to: download student evaluations in a useable format; download student committee information in a useable format from GIMS; have a campus-wide calendar that would be accessible by everyone and contain all relevant information for faculty in one place; and have a way for faculty and administrators to communicate on issues of mutual concern. This will continue to be an issue for the coming year.

6. **Campus master plan and updates on campus planning.** Carol Walker, Linda Dixon and Bill Millard provided information on the campus master plan update and on new infrastructure projects that are being developed on campus including the Archer road project. These are issues that will need to be addressed in the coming year.

7. **Effect of energy rate increases and budget cuts on UF infrastructure.** The IC discussed university infrastructure and financing with Ed Poppell and in particular rising utility costs. Costs are estimated to rise: Steam 12%; Water 36%; Natural Gas 20%; Electricity

by 4%. The IC discussed ways that faculty can help through sustainability efforts. Amelia Dempere from the Sustainability Committee agreed to serve as a representative to the (IC).

8. **Green Teams.** After presentations from the Sustainability Committee, the IC voted to encourage the development of green teams by departments or buildings. They sponsored a resolution that was passed by the Senate at their April meeting to recommend that the Senate encourage each unit to form a Green Team whose initial focus should be on reducing energy costs for each building.

9. **Weaving the Art Museum into the fabric of the University.** Harn Museum of Art Director Rebecca Nagy presented ways of weaving museum programs into the academic fabric of the university. Nagy discussed partnerships that the Harn has with colleges and units throughout campus. The museum staff would like to better serve faculty and students. The museum is interested in helping faculty to think about ways that the museum can be utilized as a resource in the classroom.

10. **Library reorganization.** Dean of the Library, Judith Russell, discussed the library reorganization plan with the IC, which we approved. In particular, this reorganization plan involved faculty in every aspect of developing and implementing the plan.

11. **Open Access.** The IC discussed the issue of open access and agreed that this is an initiative that UF should consider. The University Libraries Committee (ULC) voted to support a task force headed by John Ingram (who serves on the IC), to look at open access including an institutional repository. The Library will investigate expanding on the pilot project with Entomology and possibly another interested department. The IC agreed that this issue should be in the hands of the ULC pending their report.

12. **IC Chair for 2009-2010:** Jane Brockmann re-elected.

B. Issues to be addressed by the 2009-2010 Infrastructure Council.

- IT Issues
 - Major tech launches for the University including the new CMS
 - IT Security on campus
 - Implementation of ITAP and IT governance
 - Revision of student evaluations & improving accessibility to faculty
 - IT support for classrooms
 - Specific IT issues (e.g. centralizing mail servers)
- Classroom availability (suitability, scheduling, distance learning classrooms)
- Effect of budget cuts on campus infrastructure
- Sustainability infrastructure issues including energy conservation
- Library restructuring; merging HSC Library with Smathers (Spring 2009)
- Master plan update and implementation
- Sustainability and conservation issues (e.g. fuel cost increases, recycling)
- 34th St. complex
- Town-gown issues