

EITS Status and Activity Report for April 2014

Prepared by Timothy M. Chester, Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT)

1. Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings

- *Financial, Human Resources Administrative Systems Evaluation Project Under Way.* The University has started an assessment to collect and evaluate the expectations and high-level requirements, as well as campus “readiness,” for transforming the existing financial and human resources administrative systems environment for a potential next-generation solution. An advisory committee is working with Collegiate Project Services (CPS), an external consultant, to collect information from technical and functional UGA representatives. Activities for collecting this information include surveys of technical staff, technical preview sessions to learn about available features and technology provided by administrative systems, and functional and technical discussion sessions. The options and needs assessment phase of the project is expected to conclude in June 2014. The readiness assessment phase is expected to begin in June 2014 and conclude in September 2014. For more information about the finance and HR administrative systems evaluation project, please visit the project website at <http://www.collegiateproject.com/uga> or contact Chris Wilkins at chris.wilkins@uga.edu by email.
- *TechQual+ Survey Data Collection Begins.* Every spring, the Vice President for Information Technology administers the TechQual+ survey to assess the effectiveness of IT services across the University. Through a random sampling, UGA students, faculty, and staff are asked to gauge the effectiveness of a number of IT services, such as network connectivity, websites, administrative systems, and wireless services. TechQual+ is used by higher education IT departments across the U.S., thus allowing UGA to compare its results to other institutions. UGA is administering the TechQual+ survey this month. Using a data-driven approach, the results will be used to prioritize and implement future IT initiatives. For more information about the TechQual+ survey, please visit www.techqual.org or contact Lynn Wilson at llatimer@uga.edu by email.
- *MyWeb/MyDrive to Be Decommissioned in June 2014.* EITS is working with students, faculty, and staff who have used MyWeb/MyDrive regarding the end of the service, effective June 30, 2014. EITS recently reminded affected users of the decommission, while broadening the notification to additional users who have used the service in recent years. MyDrive is a file storage system that includes MyWeb, which offers personal webpages. Due to budget cuts, the campus-wide licenses that support MyWeb/MyDrive will not be purchased for FY15. As an alternative to MyDrive, Microsoft’s OneDrive (formerly called SkyDrive) is a free file storage option available to all students, faculty, and staff. EITS is working with individuals and departments that need alternatives to MyWeb. Several third-party products are available. For more information about the decommissioning for MyWeb/MyDrive, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/mngjnzi> or contact Wes Johnson at wesjo6@uga.edu by email.

2. Support for Student Technology Services

- *Students to Begin Registering for Fall 2014 Classes with Athena.* The accumulation of two years of work by more than 150 University personnel engaged in the ConnectUGA project reaches a pivotal time as students will start registering for Fall 2014 classes using the new student information system powered by Banner software. Students selected the name Athena for the new student information system, which replaces multiple, 30-year-old

database systems, including OASIS. Students registering for Summer 2014 classes will continue to use OASIS. Before students can register for Fall 2014 classes using Athena, students must have completed their advisements. In addition, Athena includes financial aid award information for students. Training materials about the basics of Banner and guides for course schedules are available on the ConnectUGA project website at <https://connectuga.uga.edu/tools/banner-training>. The site is accessible with a UGA MyID and password. Athena's first phase launched last fall, when students applying for Fall 2014 admission were loaded into the new system for admission decisions. For more information about the ConnectUGA project, please visit <http://connectuga.uga.edu>.

- *Blackboard Collaborate Selected as Web Conferencing Tool for Instruction.* In Fall 2013, three products were pilot-tested by faculty and students. Blackboard Collaborate has been selected as the web conferencing tool for instructional purposes. The company supporting the current web conferencing tool, Wimba Classroom, will end support of the product by the end of this year. The University will end support for new Wimba sessions on August 1. Instructors may download previously-recorded Wimba sessions from the archives until December 24. Collaborate is already available in eLearning Commons (eLC), along with Wimba. After August 1, only Collaborate will be available as a web conferencing tool in eLC. The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) will hold a Lunch and Learn about using Collaborate in eLC on April 8, at 12:30 p.m. For more information about instructional tools available in eLC, please visit the CTL's website at <http://www.ctl.uga.edu/elc/faculty>. For more information about using Blackboard Collaborate for instructional purposes, please visit <http://www.ctl.uga.edu/web-conferencing/faculty> or contact Sherry Clouser at sac@uga.edu by email.

3. Support for Academic and Administrative Computing

- *GoToMeeting Trial Available.* The Vice President for Information Technology is offering a free trial until June of GoToMeeting, a web conferencing tool by Citrix. GoToMeeting is currently used individually by a number of departments at the University as a web conferencing tool for administrative purposes. At the end of the trial, the Vice President for Information Technology will determine if it will offer GoToMeeting as a cost recovery option for interested departments the next fiscal year. A limited number of free licenses is currently available for the trial. EITS will not renew the contract for the current web conferencing service, WebEx, for the next fiscal year. To participate in the trial, please contact Sohayl Moshteal at sohayl@uga.edu by email.

4. Support for Research

- *New GACRC Cluster to Be Purchased Soon.* The Georgia Advanced Computing Resource Center (GACRC) is preparing to begin purchasing equipment for its new cluster, which will expand the computational and storage services available to all researchers at the University. This major purchase represents a significant expansion of the services offered at the GACRC for researchers. Through a two-phase approach, the GACRC is expected to begin offering the first round of expanded computational and storage resources starting in May. A second round of expansion is expected to be completed in July. The GACRC advisory committee recently recommended the configuration of the new cluster. That configuration was later expanded because of budget savings. For more information about the new GACRC cluster, please contact Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu by email.

5. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *More Wireless Devices Being Brought to Campus.* UGA's preferred wireless network, PAWS-Secure, continues to show astonishing growth as users are bringing more wireless devices on campus. Although the number of PAWS-Secure users remains about 40,000, the number of simultaneous connections has jumped from about 14,000 a day to 26,000 a day in just a year. The numbers reflect a trend seen at other higher education institutions as students, faculty, staff, and visitors are bringing two or more wireless devices on campus to access the wireless network. EITS is being proactive to identify potential problems with PAWS-Secure by making technical changes and asking users to complete a brief survey at <http://tinyurl.com/mzfp38>. For more information about PAWS-Secure, please contact Mike Lucas at mlucas@uga.edu by email.
- *BigCard to Be Decommissioned in June.* BigCard, the data processing component of the UGACard system, will be decommissioned on June 30. Departments using BigCard are preparing to transition to a new product or applications that provide enhanced security features to protect restricted data. EITS has been working with departments that will be affected by the decommissioning of BigCard, which now includes ArchPass security for authorized users. For more information about the decommissioning of BigCard, please contact Shawn Ellis at shawn.ellis@uga.edu by email.

6. Did You Know?

- The EITS Office of Information Security now offers penetration testing of University systems to identify potential security vulnerabilities. Penetration testing helps identify if a system is vulnerable to a cyber-attack and how the system responds to such potential threats. As part of a multi-step process, EITS will conduct vulnerability scans of departmental systems and issue a report with recommended remediation to reduce potential risks. For more information, interested departments should contact Will Laney at wlaney@uga.edu by email.

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