

## CHARGE TO FLAGSHIP IT PLANNING COMMITTEES

In an effort to develop a strategic plan for information technology at LSU—the Flagship Information Technology Strategy—I, as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the University, have formed five Task Forces to develop key areas of recommendation and specific action items that will advance the goal of providing excellent information technology infrastructure and services that will establish LSU as a leader—in absolute terms on a national basis—in the creative use, application, and provision of information technology in support of the LSU’s National Flagship Agenda.

The primary driving concept behind this Flagship Information Technology Strategy is IT Abundance. Within prudent and reasonable resources and in line with the University’s priorities, we should seek to provide an environment that features an abundance of information technology resources, wherein the state of information technology at LSU is advanced, current, and readily available to support faculty, staff, and students in their achievement of the broader goals of the institution. By seeking to be excellent in providing an environment that has abundant information technology resources and a sound information infrastructure, we do so not as its own end, but as a way to serve the broader missions of the University. We recognize that information technology is the great enabler—of teaching and learning, of research, of the student experience, of the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation of the University, and of the University’s outreach and broader impact.

The specific five Task Forces are as follows:

- Research Enablement
- Teaching & Learning Enablement
- Student Experience Enablement
- Infrastructure
- Information Systems Enablement

Each Task Force will consist of a chair designated by the CIO, and members recruited from the LSU community of faculty, students, and staff. Information Technology Services (ITS) and Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) personnel will also serve on these Task Forces in ex-officio status so that they, too, may provide input for consideration and participate in the development of the Flagship IT Strategy.

As the CIO, I have appointed Task Forces, but I have done so in close consultation with the Faculty Senate’s IT Committee, Student Government, and University Administration. The Task Forces do not form a governing body for IT at LSU, but may well provide the basis for an ongoing advisory function in the future.

The specific charges to the five Task Forces developing the Flagship IT Strategy are as follows:

1. Convene and discuss the CIO’s vision for information technology at LSU and review the CIO’s suggestions for areas of consideration for recommendation and action.

The timeframe of the Flagship IT Strategy should cover at least five years —through 2011. However, I hope that the resulting strategy will serve LSU long into the second decade of the twenty-first century.

2. Brainstorm and discuss possible desired outcomes for LSU in regard to information technology enablement, and list recommendations for each specific area of task force assignment. While designed to be focused on separate areas of IT enablement, it is expected that areas of overlap and commonality across the Task Forces will exist and should be so documented.
3. Develop action items to enable the recommendations. These should focus on what the outcome should be and include a brief discussion of why such outcomes are necessary; a focus on specific implementations, technologies, and timing should be delayed until subsequent steps of the process (implementation planning phase).

These three steps should be completed before the end of the fall 2005 semester if possible. The Office of the CIO (OCIO) will then use the break between semesters to collate and assemble the work of the various Task Forces into a cohesive draft Flagship IT Strategy. Once this is done, the Task Forces shall:

4. Reconvene and discuss the assembled draft Flagship IT Strategy; provide direction to OCIO for revisions.
5. Consider endorsement of the draft Flagship IT Strategy, and if so moved and supported, provide said endorsement to the CIO.

These two steps will occur early in the spring 2006 semester. Once fully endorsed by all five Task Forces, the draft Flagship IT Strategy will then be quickly circulated widely within the LSU community to obtain feedback and additional input from that community. Once this has been done, the Task Forces shall:

6. Reconvene to review any broader input and feedback, make modifications, and make final endorsement of the penultimate draft of the Flagship IT Strategy to the CIO.

At this time—approximately Spring Break of 2006—the Task Forces will suspend meetings for a brief time and initial commitment to the Flagship IT Strategy planning process shall be considered fulfilled. Following this, the CIO will—with involvement and support from the Task Force Chairs and selected members of each Task Force—seek to obtain broader endorsement by key campus governance groups. Specifically, LSU Faculty Senate, Student Government, the Deans Council, University Administration and others as recommended by the Task Forces. Once so vetted and endorsed, the Flagship IT Strategy will become final and published; publication is scheduled for May 2006. The plan will be delivered to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost for her consideration and endorsement and forwarding to the Chancellor for his consideration and approval.

Future of Task Forces

The Task Forces will be re-engaged to develop implementation plans for specific recommendations and action items. Leadership of Information Technology Services and the Office of the CIO will draft implementation planning documents, and then work closely with the Task Forces to finalize them by the end of 2006. It will be in this process that we will establish the how and when (and how much) activities of the plan's implementation.

Long term, I hope that the Task Forces—or their like—will be able to be called upon by the CIO for ongoing advice, counsel, and review of IT actions and accomplishments with respect to the implementation of the Flagship IT Strategy or other significant information technology issues that arise on campus. Discussions of the long-term future of IT advisory/governance structures should be held with all interested parties following the completion of the Flagship IT Strategy development process.

This charge submitted this fourth day of November 2005 by the Chief Information Officer of Louisiana State University.

Brian D. Voss  
Chief Information Officer