Vice President for Information Technology
Status and Activity Report for March 2016

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

1. <u>Announcements for Faculty and Staff Meetings</u>

   - *User Verification Audit to Start Soon*: Each year, the University of Georgia undergoes an annual financial audit by the State of Georgia auditors. In preparation for the FY16 audit, verification of all user accounts on the following systems will be conducted: a) Mainframe, b) Banner, and c) Identity Management. This verification will involve users verifying the need for the access that they have, and supervisors reviewing and deciding to approve or deny this access for employees under their purview. The verification process will occur from March through May 2016. Individual users and their managers will be sent additional communications in mid-March about the verification process. A FAQ page about this process will be posted on the EITS Help Desk website. Please be advised that users and supervisors who do not complete this verification process by the deadline will have their user's access revoked from the specified system(s). For questions regarding the FY16 User Verification process, please contact Lynn Wilson at llatimer@uga.edu.

2. <u>Support for Student Technology Services</u>

   - *Russell Hall to Serve as Pilot for Wireless Upgrade:* Based on student feedback from a recent survey, EITS will launch a pilot for a major wireless upgrade in Russell Hall. Residents in University Housing were recently asked by EITS to provide their feedback about wireless service in the residence halls, including specific times, locations and functions when they may experience degradation of service. Almost 40% of residents in Housing completed the survey, which identified wireless issues specifically by residence halls. Using Student Technology Fee funds, EITS, working in partnership with University Housing, has outlined a plan to boost wireless service in Russell Hall, which will serve as a test case for this technical plan. Technicians will install almost 300 new wireless access points in Russell Hall during Spring Break. After that time, EITS will evaluate the effectiveness of the technical plan to determine its next steps. For more information, please visit http://t.uga.edu/26U or contact Kerri Testement at kerriuga@uga.edu.

3. <u>Support for Academic and Administrative Computing</u>

   - *Administrative Systems to Transition to CAS*: To prepare for the transition to a new identity management system, ten University financial and administrative systems will soon change their log-in process and move under the Central Authentication Service (CAS). Systems undergoing in this transition will include Campaign for Charities, the Electronic Check Request System, the Vehicle Reservation System, UGA Alert Registration, UGAMart, the Vendors Database, the Electronic Journal Voucher System, the Journal Voucher Upload, the Electronic Leave System and the Electronic Ticket System. Once the transition is complete in late April, users will be able to securely log in to those systems using their MyID and password. For more information about the transition, contact Kenneth Little at kjljr@uga.edu.

   - *All UGA Web Applications to Transition to CAS or Gluu:* In an effort to improve information security and password management across the University, UGA custom-developed web applications using Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) for authentication will be required to switch to the University's Central Authentication Service

(CAS) or Gluu, UGA's federated identity provider. Departments have until June 15, 2016 to switch existing custom-developed web applications to CAS. Going forward, all new custom-developed web applications must use CAS for password authentication. CAS is centrally managed by EITS, does not require units and departments to be responsible for password security and is a more secure method of authentication than LDAP. Instructions for switching to CAS, as well as forms to request access to CAS or Gluu are available on the CAS FAQ page at http://t.uga.edu/26i. Departments will be offered troubleshooting help and exceptions to using CAS will be granted on a case-by-case basis. A form for requesting exceptions is available at http://t.uga.edu/26i. A form to request technical assistance is available at http://t.uga.edu/26i. For more information about the transition, contact Brian Rivers at brivers@uga.edu.

- *Key Dates for CESS Purchases Outlined:* As units work on their end of fiscal year purchases, they are advised of several key dates for CESS (Computer Equipment, Software and Services) purchases. CESS purchases totaling $500,000 or more, which require approval by the University System of Georgia, are due to the Vice President for Information Technology at UGA by March 28. Purchases that require only local CESS approval (up to $500,000) and are not available on state contract or agency contract are due to the Vice President for Information Technology's office by April 22. Requests that require local approval, but are available on state or agency contract, must be received by the Vice President for Information Technology's office by May 9. A complete list of key purchasing dates for CESS requests is available on Finance and Administration's website at: http://www.busfin.uga.edu/accounting/yearend.pdf. For questions about the CESS process, please contact Pam Burkhart at pamburk@uga.edu.

4. Support for Research

- *Special Workshops for GACRC Users*: The Georgia Advanced Computing Resources Center (GACRC), offered two special workshops in February to researchers using the zcluster. The workshops covered software installation on the zcluster and using the NCBI Blast application on the zcluster. More special workshops will be offered to users in the future. Regular mandatory training sessions are also available for new researchers interested in using GACRC resources. For more information about the GACRC and upcoming training sessions, visit the GACRC training page at http://gacrc.uga.edu/training/ or contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu.

- *Scratch File System on New Linux Cluster Increased*: The Lustre file system used as scratch space on the GACRC's new Linux cluster has been increased to 330 TB, providing researchers with more capacity for data intensive problems. The scratch environment is available to all users for temporary storage of files in use by actively running jobs on the cluster. For more information about the GACRC and the file system for scratch, please contact Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu.

- *New Maintenance Policy Set For GACRC*: Due to an increase in the operational complexity of the infrastructure, a change has been made to the GACRC's maintenance policy, effective this month. The last Wednesday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be reserved for partial cluster maintenance. Twice a year, GACRC services will be shut down for two days for more complex maintenance. These maintenances will occur on the last Tuesday and Wednesday in January and the last Tuesday and Wednesday in July. These maintenance windows represent periods when the GACRC may choose to drain the queues of running jobs and suspend access to either or both clusters, as well as storage devices for maintenance purposes. Interruptions will be kept as brief as possible, and

users of the GACRC will be notified at least 10 days in advance of each maintenance. The first partial maintenance will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, March 30. More information about the maintenances can be found at http://gacrc.uga.edu/about/policies/#maintenance, or by contacting Dr. Guy Cormier at gcormier@uga.edu.

5. Data Reporting and Analytics

- *Sharon Logan Named as Interim OIR Director:* Sharon Logan, Associate CIO for Data Reporting and Analytics, has been named interim director for the University's Office of Institutional Research (OIR). Logan will continue in her role as associate CIO while also leading the unit, which is responsible for the collection, organization, and analysis of institutional and other data to support institutional management, operations, decision-making, and planning functions. A search is currently underway for a permanent director. Logan came to the University in August 2015 from the University System of Georgia, where she was the Director of the Project Management Office. For more information on the Office of Institutional Research, contact Sharon Logan at snlogan@uga.edu.

- *OIR Hosts Webinar on Alumni Participation Data:* The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) invited colleagues from several offices within the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations to join a webinar on February 9th hosted by Academic Impressions, *Decoding U.S. News: Accurately Reporting Your Alumni Participation Numbers*. The webinar was designed to help OIR gain a better understanding of alumni participation data as reported in the annual U.S News and World Report survey. The survey process this year will begin in late March, with a deadline set for early May. For more information about OIR and the U.S. News and World Report survey, visit the office's website at oir.uga.edu or contact Tracie Sapp at tsapp@uga.edu.

- *Student Data Being Defined for Data Cookbook:* The ConnectUGA strategic reporting committee is continuing to define student data for common business terms used widely across the University. The terms are being made available in the Data Cookbook, a product being used by the ConnectUGA project to facilitate both the defining and sharing of data, as well as a repository for the list of reports and related specifications. To date, there have been 110 definitions defined and approved for the Data Cookbook. These terms include, but are not limited to, the following: registered student, enrolled student, course level, term credits, race and institutional honors. The strategic reporting committee is continuing to work on defining additional terms that are used in the most widely distributed reports. For more information about student data definitions, please contact Ilir Hasko at ihasko@uga.edu.

6. Core Campus Infrastructure

- *New Firewall Provides Advanced Security Protection:* EITS recently upgraded its firewall in one of the data centers that provide network and Internet access for the University. The new firewall provides advanced technology for security threat protection and network management. Installation of the new firewall required a campus-wide network and web services outage during the first weekend of Spring Break. With the new firewall now installed, web application owners are asked to test for any issues that may be related to this maintenance. For more information, please visit http://t.uga.edu/25K or contact Christian Cummings at ccummin@uga.edu.

7. <u>Did You Know?</u>

- More than 4 million documents have been archived electronically in Nolij Web, the University's document imaging and management solution, since the service was offered in 2009. Through Nolij Web, many university departments, including the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Admissions, have been able to streamline their business processes and save paper by sharing and storing documents electronically. The service also provides a secure and centrally-managed repository to protect sensitive and restricted information. For more information about using Nolij Web, contact David Crouch at dave.crouch@uga.edu.

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