**Preliminary Recommendations**
**Of the Regents Academic Committee on Libraries**
**Regarding the USG WebCT Vista Implementation**
**and Integration of Library Resources**

**June 18, 2004**

In recognition of the need to identify new processes and technologies for libraries to better assist faculty and students within the WebCT VISTA environment, a group of USG librarians has been reviewing products and trends in this arena in order to make recommendations regarding how to best integrate library resources and services into USG campus courseware environments.  The emphasis is on seamlessness, ease, and adding value to the course through utilization of high-quality electronic and print materials already identified and purchased on behalf of the institution. Such materials provide essential, verified, and scholarly content that would be most optimally presented for selection by faculty within the course design workspace and for presentation within the context of the student courseware.

A comprehensive recommendations document is forthcoming in which the complexities of the dawning USG integrated online learning environment are addressed, including the features and products necessary to ensure seamless access to library resources and services from within campus portals and WebCT Vista courseware.  In the meantime, the following immediate measures are recommended to ensure timely planning and discussion.

- Libraries should be included in the implementation of campus portals and course management solutions.

- Links to GALILEO, GIL, the library website, Ask a Librarian, the Online Library Learning Center tutorial, and a citation style guide should be placed at the My WebCT level for each student at every campus

- Libraries should ensure that designated librarians are trained in the use of the WebCT VISTA course designer tools and are familiar with both the student and faculty views and tools in order to be of assistance to all.

- Librarians should ensure that they are available through outreach, advertising, and service offerings to collaborate with faculty in the development of their online courses.