

A Bridge to Better Funding: Developing an IT Advisory Board

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Overview

- The Problem(s)
- The Idea(s)
- Getting Started
- Our IT Advisory Board
- Accomplishments
- Questions/Answers

The Problem(s)

- Funding, Funding, Funding
- Very limited IT funding – even of annual renewables (contingency mess)
- No refresh cycle funding for equipment
- Very little buy-in, or even understanding, among Leadership Council
- Downward spiral

The Idea(s)

- Needed more IT visibility w/o eyes glazing over
- Knew several IT industry leaders lived in area
- Mentioned the IT Advisory Board concept to the President, selected LC members
- Touched base with IT leaders in Dahlonega to get their input, interest level, suggestions
- Formed the NGCSU ITAB in July 2008

Getting Started

- Found 9 IT leaders living in/near Dahlonega (three former alumni, a CS professor w/ industry experience, and five other experts)
- All were interested in serving – several had wanted to be involved with the college for years, but had never found an opportunity
- President agreed to charter the group and host the first meeting

Our IT Advisory Board

- Former Oracle/SAP/KPMG DB Engineer & Consultant
- Alum now working for DHR as Web Admin
- Former Gartner Analyst & Consultant
- President of Promethean (former Exec. Dir. of Apple's Educ. Div.)
- Director of Enterprise Architecture for Cox Communications
- Alum w/20 years security experience (Bank IT Auditor w/Fed.Reserve)
- CS Professor w/20 years experience, 10 in industry
- System Administrator for Norfolk Southern
- Alum w/marketing & IT experience
- CIO and all 6 IT managers
- VPs/LC welcome at all mtgs.

Our IT Advisory Board (cont.)

- Five Purposes of NGCSU IT Advisory Board:
 - To involve the greater NGCSU community in setting the strategic direction for IT at the university
 - To connect local IT experts to NGCSU in a meaningful and beneficial manner
 - To provide greater opportunities for NGCSU to offer IT services to support the needs of its community
 - To partner NGCSU's IT managers with experts in their respective fields
 - To develop and guide the implementation of a governance structure for sustainable IT infrastructure and services at NGCSU

Our IT Advisory Board (cont.)

- Quarterly meetings
- First meeting was a dinner/meet & greet, hosted by the President at his home
- Subsequent meetings on campus, drinks provided, longer meetings to hash out needs
- Wiki for group interaction between meetings, posting and sharing documents (<http://groups.ngcsu.edu/groups/>)

Accomplishments

- First three topics:
 - IT Strategic Plan
 - IT Org Structure
 - IT Governance
- Ongoing project guidance/portfolio management:
 - Web site, Capital Improvement Plan, Identity Management, Change Management

Accomplishments (cont.)

- IT Strategic Plan – group helped identify gaps in our strategic plan, reach further
- IT Org Structure – helped think through the “next CIO’s IT” - or an ideal IT for NGCSU
- IT Governance – helped solidify the governance charter, Communities of Interest (COIs)
 - Plug – GSU has a presentation tomorrow morning on IT Governance and Project/Portfolio Mgt

Accomplishments (cont.)

- COIs for IT at NGCSU:
Faculty Senate, Staff Council, Leadership Council, Student Government, the Deans' Council, Library, CTLE, University Technology Committee, Banner Committee, Information Security Oversight Committee, Facilities & Auxiliary Services, Business & Finance, Enrollment Management, Student Services, Public Safety, Institutional Effectiveness, Alumni, Advancement, Athletics, Continuing Education, Military Science, the Commandant's Office

Accomplishments (cont.)

- Starting to get buy-in for sustainability funding
- Getting support documents from ITAB members to help make business cases
- Seeking more feedback/input from COIs on all projects (IDM and charging for A/V support are two good examples)
- Still working on refresh funding for basics, but have many “must fund” items covered finally

Questions/Answers



Thank you!

