From: The Common Systems Group

To: The Information Technology Planning Board

The Common Systems Group has discussed the development of information technology projects by both academic and administrative units at UCLA.

We believe that:

- there is a need for increased campus awareness at a very early stage of IT projects that could be of interest to or potentially impact multiple units across campus.
- that increased awareness of projects could greatly increase the amount of collaboration between units and reduce the creation of distributed "shadow systems" and of "central systems" that don't optimally address client needs.
- the university would benefit from a process that provides institutional incentives for the development of innovative technologies and collaboration across campus.

We encourage the ITPB to consider the possibility of recommending:

- the establishment of an IT project registry for use by the CIO's at UCLA.
- the expansion of the focus of the Committee on Information Technology Infrastructure (CITI) and/or of appointed subgroups to include investment recommendations for all IT projects on campus, both academic and administrative, with a potential for broad multi-unit impact.
- that the campus IT investment recommendation process specifically be enhanced to address the need to invest in potentially broad impact essential or innovative projects of all sizes proposed by any unit or collaborations of units on campus.
- a requirement that all IT projects proposed by any unit on campus seeking new campus investment for a project be entered into the registry prior to the development of specific proposals. This requirement provides the critical incentive for units to more broadly disseminate information about their projects at an early stage and collaborate in their development. It also greatly encourages consultation, collaboration, and reduces the possibility of costly duplicative efforts.
- that the CSG provides assistance and feedback regarding the development of registered projects.