

Interim University Technology Advisory Committee Charge

The interim University Technology Advisory Committee (interim U-TAC) is responsible for providing advice and guidance on University of Washington information technology issues and priorities until a new permanent information technology governance structure is established. (See “Background” below for more information.)

The committee is advisory to the Provost and has purview over all University information technology strategies, policies, directions, issues, and priorities at all levels and across the University, including research, academic, and administrative computing and infrastructure.

The interim U-TAC is responsible for all areas of information technology (IT) governance formerly covered by the UW’s three technology advisory committees: the University Technology Advisory Committee (U-TAC), the Academic Technology Advisory Committee (A-TAC), and the Information Management Advisory Committee (I-MAC). This includes project oversight and other activities required to meet the UW’s regulatory obligations.

The interim U-TAC may appoint task forces and subcommittees as appropriate and may also refer issues to existing task forces, groups, and subcommittees for advice as needed.

The interim U-TAC is chaired by the Provost and includes between 10 and 12 members as appointed by the Provost.

The interim U-TAC’s role includes:

- Advise on all IT policies, strategies, plans, directions, issues, and priorities, including resource allocation
- Make recommendations on IT project prioritization and resource allocation
- Advise on IT services, including proposed changes to central IT service levels or offerings
- Advise on recommendations proposed by the UW Technology Working Group and associated action teams
- Provide oversight and review of all information technology acquisitions and projects as outlined in UW Administrative Policy Statement 2.3 and as required by the Washington State Information Services Board and Department of Information Services
- Provide oversight and review of other IT projects as determined by the committee or by appropriate vice presidents or vice provosts

Background

One of the recommendations outlined in the September 10 *UW Technology Working Group Report to President Mark Emmert* is that the University conduct a comprehensive evaluation and revision of its information technology (IT) governance structure, including its three high-level advisory committees: the University Technology Advisory Committee (U-TAC), the Academic Technology Advisory Committee (A-TAC), and the Information Management Advisory Committee (I-MAC).

The goal of this effort is to broaden and strengthen the UW's governance structure to address the need to identify, evaluate, and prioritize major and strategic University-wide IT investments across the institution—including academic and administrative computing and infrastructure—in a consistent and holistic way. This is critical to ensure close alignment of the University's IT strategies, investments, and operations moving forward. An action team will be formed in January 2009 to conduct this work.

The interim U-TAC is being formed to address the need for an IT governance structure while this work is underway. The recommendation for this interim approach emerged from an IT governance retreat held in November to provide advice to the future Governance Action Team. The retreat included the chairs and several members from each of the Technology Advisory Committees, representatives from other UW IT advisory groups, and other key stakeholders.

The group recognized the need for an interim IT governance body to enable the UW to move forward on important IT policies and priorities. However, rather than continuing with three committees or creating a new structure, the group recommended that the University consolidate responsibilities of all of the committees into U-TAC and reconstitute the committee to be a smaller, more agile interim governance body.

In accordance with this recommendation, the interim U-TAC will have purview over issues formerly covered by all three Technology Advisory Committees: U-TAC, A-TAC, and I-MAC. This includes performing project oversight and other activities as required to meet the UW's regulatory obligations. The UW Medicine IT Services Oversight Committee will continue in its current role.