

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
THE GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

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October 14, 2021

George Chacko (chackoge@illinois.edu - College)
Armando Duarte (caduarte@illinois.edu – CEE, Chair)
Mark Hart (mshart@illinois.edu - Engineering IT – Ex Officio)
Paris Smaragdis (paris@illinois.edu – CS)
Mattia Gazzola (mgazzola@illinois.edu - MechSE)

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Engineering at Illinois IT Governance Research Working Group for the academic year 2021-2022. This working group is critical to helping ensure that IT support of the research needs of faculty, researchers, and graduate students in the College is of the highest quality and reliability.

Your recommendations and comments are advisory to the Executive Associate Dean, with primary responsibilities for:

- Reviewing policies concerning the sustainability and provision of any needed research IT that enhances the College research mission, both at the Engineering College level and at the campus level.
- Considering IT support for new research pursuits in our College, anticipating new opportunities and responding to interests and initiatives from our units.
- Monitoring, assist with prioritizing, and provide feedback on the implementation of any proposals concerning research IT.
- Assist with monitoring, providing feedback, and reporting on the progress of work to align Engineering IT services with campus-level IT services, in particular with respect to research.
- Coordinating and communicating with the other IT working groups over overlapping interests.

In particular, over this academic year, I would like to ask you to

- Perform an evaluation of the annual campus cluster investment and propose any adjustments to the investment or sharing model.
- Discuss potential interaction with NCSA based on discussions that took place on September 2 with the NCSA team (see questions below)
- Review proposal to address the security of research data and provide recommendations
- Discuss oversight on cybersecurity issues by the GCOE research community

You will also be asked to provide an assessment at the end of the academic year on the current state of IT support for research activities. Professor Duarte has graciously agreed to chair this working group. He will be in contact with you soon to arrange for your first meeting.

I am thankful to all of you for your willingness to contribute to this important work for our College. I look forward to joining you at your first meeting to discuss the charge and answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Philippe H. Geubelle

Questions raised during the September 2nd 2021 meeting between the GCOE and NCSA leadership

Big Questions

1. What are the current and expected future needs for research computing and data in 2 and 5 years? How can we best gather this information and update it on a regular basis? How do these interact with plans for growth?
2. What do new initiatives need in terms of research computing and data?
3. What sort of computing and data support (whether hardware, software, cloud, application support, consulting, training, etc.) would be transformational?
4. What are the social and organizational issues in implementing especially for shared resources?

More details

1. What special operational requirements are there, for example, root access or high availability?
2. How well is the campus cluster model serving the needs of the college? What could be improved? Would other, complimentary, capabilities be an option, and if so, what specifically is needed?
3. What could NCSA do to improve current offerings or add new offerings to meet the needs of the college?