

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

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Nick Colaneri (nfc@illinois.edu, GCOE office of Research)
Mark Hart (mshart@illinois.edu, Engineering IT – Ex Officio)
Jianqi Xi (jianqixi@illinois.edu, NPPE)
Jinhui Yan (yjh@illinois.edu, CEE) Chair
Hiroyasu Tsukamoto (hiroyasu@illinois.edu, AE)
Ravi Iyer (ravii2@illinois.edu, ECE)

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Grainger College of Engineering IT Governance Research Working Group for the academic year 2025-2026. 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.
- Monitor, 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 with overlapping interests.

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

- Review the expectations GCOE has in expanding its footprint in and around Chicago and make recommendations as to what role Engineering IT or other IT service providers are expected to have in regards to research support at DPI, IQMP, or other locations outside of the main Urbana-Champaign campus area.
- Review and advise on the development of NPCF as a shared datacenter for advanced GPU systems based on a proposal delivered to Dean Bashir in March, 2025.
- Continue exploration - through departmental stakeholder engagement - of the value a dedicated software specialist would add to the college with an expectation of proposing the creation of this position in the next year.
- Review the need to renew previously recurring investments in research computing GCOE has made on behalf of our researchers.
- Review any proposed investments or service enhancements in research computing originating from campus and provide input on how they may be best directed and utilized by GCOE faculty.

You will also be asked to provide an assessment at the end of the academic year (no later than June 1, 2026) on the current state of IT support for research activities. Dr. Yan 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.

Sincerely,



Philippe H. Geubelle