


**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**


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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Academic and Administrative Computing Staff

FROM: Charles D. Leffler   
Vice Chancellor, Finance and Business

Larry A. Nielsen   
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Chancellor James L. Oblinger

DATE: June 29, 2006

In 2005, Chancellor Oblinger asked us to examine the question of would NC State benefit from the establishment of Chief Information Officer (CIO) position to provide leadership and direction for information technology activities. This was a question that he had given considerable thought to as provost.

Over the last few months we have consulted with several experts and performed benchmarking on the status of CIOs at our peer research and land grant institutions and found the majority of them did have a CIO position which coordinated administrative and academic computing and reported to an executive officer of the university. We also spent considerable time reflecting on our circumstances at NC State where we spend almost 5 percent of our total budget on information technology activities.

We came to the conclusion that there was the potential for us to be more efficient and effective with a combined information technology operation and that enterprise-level thinking is essential. Therefore, we recommended to the chancellor that we should create a new position of CIO and that we should engage a small study group from within and outside of NC State to spend the next few months considering the broad outlines and concepts for the responsibilities and reporting structure of the CIO. This study group would be chaired by a non-NC State IT professional and would consider the range of current functions, personnel and programs that would move to the new CIO office representing the central efforts in information technology. The Chancellor has accepted these recommendations.

This will be a major transition in thinking and operation of IT at NC State and we expect the process to be open and engage the entire campus community. The Chancellor's expectations are that we would conduct a national search for the CIO with a proposed starting date of July 1, 2007. During 2007-2008, the new CIO would effect the transition from the current organization to the new organization, with a proposed effective completion date of July 1, 2008.

LAN/CDL/vsw

cc: James L. Oblinger  
Executive Officers  
Deans