Item 1: ITAC Positional Review

A. Origination.

- Initiated on May 16, 2008 to address challenges by:
  - Gathering perspectives from across the university.
  - Sharing resources and coordinating efforts.
  - Providing collective decision making on IT and security-related issues.
- Charges:
  - Provide advice and recommendations to the VP and Associate Provost for IT.
  - Offer guidance on topics for the IT Forum.
  - Communicate information to and collect input from membership organizations.
- Membership participation includes:
  - Regular meeting attendance.
  - Creating a charger for the ITAC.
  - Provide advice and guidelines to policy making and operational decisions.
  - Review and evaluate solutions and methods to help mitigate risks.
  - Collaborate to identify common issues.
- Accomplishments.
  - Developed and approved ITAC Constitution and Bylaws.
  - Commissioned and completed studies in:
    - Storage and transmission of sensitive data.
    - Portable computing device security.
    - Professional employee orientation.
  - Provided representation to:
    - Information Policy Committee
    - Committee for the selection of a preferred technology training vendor.
  - Gathered information and discussed a variety of IT topics affecting the campus.
- The SAP was not voted on.

B. Self Analysis.

- Meeting attendance still remains an issue.
- Want to add representatives from Provost’s Office, Library and VetMed.
- Need formal reporting mechanism: White papers, reviews, feedback on emerging SAPs
- Need improved IT Forum guidance.
- Developed effective knowledge acquisition channels.
- Successfully bootstrapped ITAC process for review.

B. The Future.

- Continue gathering information from Texas A&M IT departments.
- Advisory role through reviews and white papers and giving feedback on emerging SAPs.
- Facilitate shared governance opportunities and give procedural guidance.
**Item 3: Dr. Cantrell’s Feedback**

A. **Shared Services Report.**
- Dr. Cantrell is going to distribute the report and would like ITAC to give feedback on which components they agree or disagree with. He would like ITAC to see how we could do a better job of shared services together.
- Last fiscal year, $35 million was spent for shared IT services. $14 million was spent on non-university components.
- This is good, but there is always room to improve.
- Texas A&M IT has already rebid the long distance phone services contract system wide. Dr. Cantrell said this would lead to modest cost savings.
- The standard desktop configuration has always been voluntary. Dr. Cantrell said we could save 15-20 percent if everyone did this. Expanding this to more of the administrative parts of the university (not researchers) could save $2.5 million.
- Virtualization was left out of the shared services report because they didn’t have a good cost model to estimate potential savings.

B. **Future Direction.**
- Dr. Cantrell predicts that stimulus money will decrease this budget year.
- Sometimes these situations can bring opportunities.
- The State has a $12-$15 billion dollar deficit, and cuts are usually made for higher education.
  - There could be a modest tuition increase.

C. **ITAC Representation on IT Committees.**
- Dr. Cantrell thinks it is a good idea for ITAC to have a representative on IT committees. He asked ITAC to review the committees and tell him the ones we wish to join.
  - Open Access Labs Advisory Committee
  - Classroom ITS Committee – Review competitive grants
  - Instruction Technology Council – Meet monthly, discuss classroom technology equipment
  - EIS Steering Committee – Governing body of Compass
  - Portal Committee – Make decisions about Howdy portal implementation

D. **Reporting.**
- Dr. Cantrell think white papers and decision reports are a great idea.
- He would like to meet with the committee one time per semester.
- We should schedule meetings with him to present the white papers.

E. **Sub-Committees and Road Maps.**
- The committee told Dr. Cantrell they would like a sub-committee to review the IT career ladder. Dr. Cantrell thinks this is a good idea and offered Gib Sawtelle’s guidance.
- Dr. Cantrell also agreed that getting road maps from various Texas A&M IT departments would be beneficial to the committee.
  - ITAC wants the road maps to include their 2 year plans. The committee would like to know about CIS’ plan for email as it may affect their departmental decisions.
  - ITAC would also like to know about CIS’ plans for virtualization, cloud computing and active directory.

F. **Strategic Plan**
- Dr. Cantrell must create a strategic plan for IT that ties to Vision 2020 and the Academic Master Plan by April.
- He would like ITAC to give him feedback and input about the process.