

TASK FORCE CHARGE (APRIL 7, 2008)

Given the importance of information technology (IT) for the success of the mission and long term goals of New York University overall and as a global network university, the University leadership has appointed a Task Force of senior leaders with the goal of validating and developing a strategic plan for information technology that will ensure NYU's success in its endeavors in the decades ahead.

The need for the Task Force is reinforced by one of the recommendations from the visiting team, which conducted the Fall 2007 external review of NYU Information Technology Services (ITS):

“Engage senior leadership more directly in technology planning. The ITS strategic plan proposes a vision for technology aligned with their understanding of the University’s goals. It is critical that the senior University leaders and the Deans engage sufficiently in the planning process to understand the investments required and to validate that the priorities are correct.”

The Task Force is asked first to validate the ITS strategic plan - further developing and improving this plan to encompass the IT activities of the schools and other administrative units. The Task Force should ensure that the plan supports all of NYU as a global network university; that is, it should focus upon aligning IT-related plans and priorities with the emerging and evolving strategies for the New York and overseas campuses, for the entire global network in general, and for the NYU-Abu Dhabi node in particular.

As part of this effort, it is anticipated that the Task Force will:

- Estimate the level of minimal resources necessary to accomplish the strategic plan;
- Prioritize and phase the parts of the plan;
- Provide guidance to ITS and the schools in developing tactical plans to implement the steps in this strategy.
- Ensure that ITS at NYU is as efficient as can be prudently achieved, and that it is integrated into the planning of all academic and business practices at the University.

In more detail and specifically, the task force will:

- Develop the IT-related priorities and phasing to accomplish the strategy for NYU to be a global network university in the next decades.

Establish guidelines for IT infrastructure that ensure the appropriate levels of performance of software and hardware suitable for the practical applications at hand. The driving force should be the requirement of the academic or business application, not the state of the art of the technology.

- Establish a system by which the full costs of the IT network and facilities, including maintenance and operating costs, are accurately determined, and charged back to the appropriate academic or business units, unless an explicit decision has been made to assume charges as a University responsibility.
- Determine the minimal short- and long-term investments required to provide the technology infrastructure and services necessary to support NYU in this endeavor.

IT Task Force Report – Appendix A

- Recommend measures to optimize the balance of responsibilities shared by ITS and by the Schools and overseas campuses, for managing and evolving the necessary technology infrastructure and services.
- Recommend ongoing IT governance practices to provide the University leadership, ITS and the academic units with guidance on emerging and evolving priorities and to maintain alignment between institutional priorities and the allocation of technology resources.
- Identify major risks and issues associated with implementing the IT strategy; recommend mitigation steps and countermeasures.

The IT Task Force will be chaired by Richard Revesz, Dean of the NYU School of Law.