

## Where Do Computing Advisors Get Advice?

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Like central computing organizations at most colleges and universities, the Office of Information Technologies and the Department of Information Technology and Communication at U.Va. rely on advice and guidance provided by an array of committees comprising faculty, staff and students. Here's how they are organized (and why) and how you can get involved.

Several years ago, Vice President and Chief Information Officer Polley McClure reorganized the advisory committee structure to address two concerns. The first was that when the computing organizations needed specially focused advice, they would establish new specialized advisory bodies that seemed disconnected from the formal advisory structure. Second, the rapid rate of change in all aspects of information technology requires that the central organizations seek quick review of issues as they develop, but the old advisory structure was not designed for quick response.

The current structure at U.Va. is topped by the University Committee on Information Technology (UCIT). The committee includes members appointed by the President, members appointed by the CIO and the UCIT chair, and members designated by particular University functions. The President appoints the UCIT chair, two members who serve as chairs of the Academic Computing Advisory Council (ACAC) and the Administrative Computing Council (ACC), respectively, the immediate past chair of UCIT and two at-large members. The UCIT chair and the CIO together appoint the chairs of "expert groups," who also serve as UCIT members. Current standing expert groups provide advice on information technology in instruction, in research, in student use of computing, in communications infrastructure, in network-based information systems, in departmental computing support, and in management of University data.

The academic and administrative councils are representative bodies—the chairs of each solicit designation of representatives from leaders of the university schools and administrative units, respectively. The libraries and the clinical-care leaders designate persons from their own advisory structures to serve as liaison-members of UCIT, and the faculty senate president also designates a representative.

If you would like to learn more about the mission, activities, and membership of any of these committees, take a look at the web pages of the committees at <http://www.itc.virginia.edu/departments/committees>. If you are interested in serving on any of the groups that report to UCIT, use the form in each committee's web site to let the chair know. For the groups not directly selected by the chair and the CIO, the chair will pass word of your interest to whoever appoints members—the deans in the case of the academic advisory council, the vice presidents for the administrative council, the library director, the health sciences center CIO representing clinical care, and the president of the Faculty Senate.