Administrative Excellence Advisory Committee

| Date: | Thursday, May 19, 2011 |
| Start/End Time: | 10 am to 11:30 am |
| Location: | 260 Bascom |
| Present: | Members: Brad Barham (Chair), Mark Bugher, Aaron Crandall, JoBeth Dudley, Irwin Goldman, Julie Underwood, Anne Mekschun, Bethany Pluymers  
Ex Officio: John Krogman, Kim Moreland  
Guests: Provost Paul DeLuca, Vice Chancellor Darrell Bazzell  
Staff: Alice Gustafson, Scott Hildebrand, Eden Inoway-Ronnie, Maury Cotter  
Huron Representatives: Greg Bedell, Laura Yeager, Mike Phillips |
| Unable to attend: | Jeff Shokler, Brandon Williams, Joanne Berg, Alan Fish, Bob Lavigna, Don Miner |

##### MEETING NOTES

**Highlighted Activities:**

1. **Announcements** –
   Brad Barham announced that the Steering Committee will meet immediately following the Advisory Committee meeting. He said the Guiding Principles will be shared with the Steering Committee.

2. **IT workstream update** –
   Huron reported on the progress being made in the information technology area. Huron’s task is to provide recommendations to promote more efficient, effective and flexible delivery of IT services. The focus of the review is on governance, funding, staffing levels and position management, organizational structures, research computing and distributed computing.
   
   Mike Phillips of Huron said the campus has made progress toward greater IT efficiencies, but more opportunities exist to help save money and promote common efficiency initiatives. Currently, he said, departments hire DoIT for as many projects as DoIT can handle as long as the departments have funding. No central governance structure is in place to serve as a “traffic cop.”

   Huron also reported on benchmarking comparisons with institutions similar to UW-Madison. The comparisons found that UW-Madison allocates more FTEs to the centralized IT function than any other institution reviewed. The benchmarking also found that UW-Madison receives about 33% of its funding for centralized IT from the campus operating appropriation – slightly more than half of the average institution in the peer group. UW-Madison receives nearly 44% of its central IT fund from resale services – about 15% more than the average institution in the group.

   John Krogman noted that about 20% of DoIT’s work supports UW System. He said that fact would play into the benchmarking comparisons. Several other committee members asked...
about the base data used for UW-Madison in the benchmarking, and specifically requested that Huron review the number of staff within and outside of DoIT before the next report.

Huron reported that it has found several opportunities for cost reductions:

- The funding model for DoIT is too complex and may need to be redesigned.
- There is a need to create low-overhead data centers to house decentralized servers.
- UW-Madison may wish to consider redesigning the demand-driven model used by DoIT to support user needs.
- Many commodity IT services duplicated across schools and departments could be consolidated or eliminated.
- Opportunities exist to virtualize or co-locate servers across schools and departments.

Mark Bugher raised the question of whether the institutional culture would accept a model that would establish campus wide priorities and a centralized governance structure under which some projects would be considered more important than others. Brad Barham said it does not have to be an “all or nothing proposition.”

John Krogman said the Huron report did not produce any surprises. Many of the same conclusions are in the IT Strategic Plan. John said the question is what is the right blend between a centralized and decentralized model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action items:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Brad Barham asked that the Administrative Excellence website (<a href="http://www.adminexcellence.wisc.edu">www.adminexcellence.wisc.edu</a>) include a link to the IT Strategic Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Brad asked Huron to report back to the Advisory Committee at the next meeting about “here’s what we digested (at today’s meeting) and here’s what we’re doing.” Huron will provide a more detailed report on its IT work at the June 16 meeting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE:**
Thursday, June 2 10 am to 11:30 am  Room 260 Bascom