

## **Draft outline of an IT Strategic Plan for Illinois Wesleyan University**

Information Technology Goal: Anticipate and prepare for ways to best use technology to meet the changing needs of the University's students, faculty and staff.

Strategy A: **Making best use of the Internet.** In the past 10 years the Internet has come to be a fundamental part of modern scholarship, and for delivering university services to our various constituencies. We need to make best use of the Internet to help our various constituencies best serve their individual information needs, and prepare to deliver new Internet services that further the teaching, learning, research, and administrative needs of the university.

Strategy B: **Recognizing the demands of digital media.** As we have come to rely more on electronic technologies to deliver digital voice, video and images, the increased use of digital media will present challenges for the University's technology infrastructure and support services. We need to plan for the growing demand for more and faster access to digital media. We also need to prepare mechanisms to archive and retrieve such new media for future scholarship and research.

Strategy C: **Supporting Mobile Computing.** Just as cell phones are supplanting fixed telephones we need to prepare for the day when the majority of our community carry their primary information device with them. We need to provide seamless, wireless access for the campus community, and prepare to support information appliances that are as ubiquitous and portable as today's cell phone.

Strategy D: **Protecting the University's Information Assets.** As the utility of the Internet has grown, so has the University community become more vulnerable to malicious and criminal exploits. The power of our systems has also made it simpler for a single well meaning, but misinformed, member of our community to make a mistake that affects the entire community. The university needs to be more proactive in securing and protecting its information environment.

Strategy E: **Analyzing Information.** The majority of the university's information systems are currently focused on transaction processing. While a few areas of the university have begun to develop systems to analyze these transactions to aid management decisions, there is much more that can be done with information analytics. The university needs to better use its information to quickly react to strategic targets and benchmarks. Such analysis tools will be useful not only in terms of enrollment management, fundraising, and other administrative operations, but also in terms of assessing the success of our academic programs.