

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(Final; Information)

IT.25.07 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Information Technology

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Information Technology (IT) during the 2024-2025 academic year. IT held four meetings during the fall 2024 semester (September 18, October 16, November 13, December 4) and four meetings during the spring 2025 semester (January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**IT.23.08, Discussion on Overleaf**

Overleaf is a collaborative cloud-based LaTeX editor used for writing, editing, and publishing scientific documents. IT was interested in the possibility of making it available with a campus wide license.

IT.23.09, Discussion on Bot Attacks

IT held discussions on having resources available that would help prevent or manage possible bot attacks.

IT.24.02, HTML 5 Package (H5P) in Canvas

H5P is a free, open-source content collaboration framework that allows users to create, share, reuse and modify a variety of interactive content and applications. IT was interested in an enterprise license for H5P.

IT.24.06, Discussion on Security Within Webtools

The discussion on security within Webtools centered on trust certificates. There was no forward progress on this item.

IT.25.01, Discussion on Illinois Student Council (ISC) Distributing Data from Instructor & Course Evaluation System (ICES)

Hunter Farnham, Student Body Vice President, led a discussion on the ISC and data from ICES. The goal of ISC was to release data that would be informative and helpful to students when considering courses.

IT.25.05, Discussion on How to Identify Prohibited Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Coursework and Exams

TurnItIn, a plagiarism-detection tool, was disabled prior to the Spring 2024 semester.

There is currently no replacement for TurnItIn and it is unclear if another option will be made available.

II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

IT.24.01, Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Discussions on programs with GenAI were held over the course of several meetings. These programs included:

- UICU Zoom accounts, which now have access to Zoom AI Companion.
- The Microsoft Copilot 365 Pilot Program that was launched in May of 2024. The program ended in December of 2024 and became available for purchase in 2025.
- A contract for ChatGPT is being finalized.
- Illinois Chat service has been chosen for a pilot program for use in classes.

IT.24.07, Update on Boldly Illinois Information Technology Strategic Plan

The Boldy Illinois Information Technology Strategic Plan proposes a vision for IT fully aligning with the institutional mission, to be more responsive to current and future strategic needs, and to collaborate more closely towards the collective good.

IT.25.02, Update on Illinois Computes

Chuck Thompson, Director of Illinois Computes, presented information on Illinois Computes. Illinois Computes is a program that offers computing and data storage resources as well as technical support services to researchers.

IT.25.03, Transition from Instructor & Course Evaluation System (ICES) to Explorance Blue

Geoffrey Herman, Provost Fellow for Teaching Evaluation and Teaching Professor, Siebel School of Computing and Data Science, provided information on the transition from ICES to Explorance Blue. ICES is the current student evaluation system used to evaluate instructor and course effectiveness. Blue is a new software platform for collecting student feedback on teaching. Blue will fully replace ICES by fall of 2025.

IT.25.04, Update on Cyber Security Improvement Initiative (CII)

Kim Milford, Deputy CIO and Chief Information Security Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, provided an update on the Cybersecurity Improvement Initiative (CII). CII is a multi-year initiative to enroll all eligible university-owned devices into campus supported endpoint management and CrowdStrike. CrowdStrike is a software that helps detect and prevent hacks.

IT.25.06, Discussion on Federal Funding Pause and the Effects on IT

A general discussion was held on what effects the pause on federal funding will have on Information Technology. There is concern that it will affect the research side and Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) and have impact on research Information Technology.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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Amy Fry
Bilal Karim
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Christopher Lueg
Sean Mullen
Megan Sapp-Nelson
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Kelly Block, *ex officio*
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Mairéad Martin, *ex officio*
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