

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(Final; Information)

IT.26.04 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Information Technology

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Information Technology (IT) during the 2025-2026 academic year. IT held four meetings during the fall 2025 semester (September 3, October 15, November 12, December 3) and four meetings during the spring 2026 semester (January 21, February 11, March 11, April 8). More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

IT.24.01, Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

The Generative AI Center of Expertise (GenAI CoE) was established to support the use of generative AI. The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) currently provides a website of resources, guidelines, and best practices for faculty and students. Additionally, all UIUC-licensed Zoom accounts now include Zoom AI Companion. The Microsoft 365 Copilot pilot ran from May to December 2024, with licenses available for purchase in 2025. This item was removed from the agenda on 09/03/2025.

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. Concern was expressed that information technology research and Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) would be impacted. This item was removed from the agenda on 09/03/2025.

II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

IT.24.07, Boldly IT

Boldly IT aims to align IT with the University's mission, respond to strategic needs, and foster collaboration. A Technology Governance Executive Committee was established in October 2025 to oversee IT strategy, governance, and campus-wide integration. Subcommittees for Teaching & Learning, Research Support, and Data & AI are being formed with representation from each college.

IT.25.02, Illinois Computes

Chuck Thompson, Director of Illinois Computes, National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), shared a presentation on Illinois Computes at the 11/12/2025

meeting. Illinois Computes offers researchers no-cost computing, data storage, and technical support across disciplines. The program has been extended through 06/30/2029 with the long-term goal of becoming a permanent campus initiative. Current priorities include expanding AI resources, strengthening support services, improving access to resources, and increasing outreach.

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

The transition from ICES to Explorance Blue, the new platform for collecting student feedback on teaching, was completed in fall 2025. The system is now administered by CITL.

IT.25.04, Cybersecurity Improvement Initiative

Kim Milford, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, and Taylor Judd, Assistant Director, Cybersecurity Operations and Engineering, provided an update on the Cybersecurity Improvement Initiative (CII) at the 12/03/2025 meeting. CII is a multi-year effort to strengthen security for university-owned devices. More than 10,000 devices are now protected, and overall compliance has increased from 40% to 60%. The initiative is also supporting a campus-wide device inventory and coordinating with the Boldly IT governance structure, while focusing on compliance and privacy.

IT.26.01, Ninth Senate Review Commission Request for Committee Feedback from the Senate Committee on Information Technology

A request from the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) was received to provide feedback on IT's charge, composition, and function. IT responded to the request on 03/12/2026.

IT.26.02, Shared Governance and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Review

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) released a statement in summer 2025 addressing shared governance and institutional decision-making related to the use of AI. After careful review of the statement by a subcommittee comprised of Clay, Katz, and Mullen, a set of recommendations and supporting guidance was developed that emphasize the need for clearer institutional direction in areas such as teaching, research, data governance, and academic integrity. IT will continue reviewing the guidance to determine whether additional recommendations to the Senate are necessary.

IT.26.03, Intellectual Property and Data Protection with Canvas/Instructure

Instructure and OpenAI have entered into a global partnership to integrate generative AI directly into Canvas. The discussion focused on the protection of intellectual property and concerns about how course content within Canvas may be collected and used.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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