

January 26, 2006

To: Ellen Horsch, Vice President for Administration
From: Joshua Myles, Chair, MTU System Administration Council
Cc: Jarrod Karau, Director, Central Computing



Subject: Name Suggestions for MTU's Central Information Technology Group

The MTU System Administration Council (MTUSYSADM), which comprises technical representatives from every department and unit on campus, is concerned by the recent name change of our central information technology group, formerly known as Information Technology.

One of our concerns is the potential confusion with other technical groups on campus, such as Central Engineering Computing (a name which has been used since late 2001), and possibly the Center for Experimental Computation.

A more significant concern is that the name "Central Computing" does not accurately reflect the scope of the central information technology group's responsibilities. The central group covers more than what is traditionally considered to be computing, including networking, information security, application and service development, and other areas. The name "Central Computing" to some implies a centralized computing lab resource, as in the former Academic Computing Services.

With these concerns in mind, MTUSYSADM compiled a list of name suggestions and took an informal vote at our regular council meeting. The two names that received the most votes (each receiving the same number of votes) were:

University Information Technology
Information Technology Services

The third choice was:

University Information Services

In addition to better describing the group's function to campus and outside contacts, the top two name suggestions might also serve to ease a transition from the similar name "Information Technology" (for example, letterhead, business cards, vendor mailing addresses, printed directories, etc. could all be changed gradually).

In summary, we think the names above appropriately represent MTU's central information technology group, are in line with names used at other universities and institutions, and will ultimately reduce confusion. We ask that you consider one of these names as an alternative to "Central Computing".