COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCES TASK FORCE

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Charge to the Task Force

Faced with the information revolution and the profound effects that it is having or will very soon have on the nature of scholarship and teaching in all fields, Cornell must ensure that it is intellectually and organizationally prepared to remain a leader in the "strategic enabling disciplines" that make up the computing and information sciences. Accordingly, the Task Force on Computing and Information Sciences is charged to consider the following questions:

What known results and projected advances in the computing and information sciences are most likely to affect disciplines across the entire University?

What new undergraduate and graduate curricula will be required in order to prepare Cornell's students for the information revolution?

What intellectual and technological resources will be necessary in order to ensure that the University continues to lead in bringing about advances in the computing and information sciences?

What is the optimal organizational structure, in terms of departments, colleges, and administrative units, for ensuring that Cornell occupies the leading position in bringing to bear the computing and information sciences on all fields of scholarship, teaching, research, and outreach?

How can Cornell position itself to use its strength in the computing and information sciences to enhance its attractiveness to students, faculty, researchers and staff?

How can Cornell best distinguish itself further in the field?
How can Cornell best compete for the new resources being allocated by the federal government for research and teaching in the computing and information sciences?

The Task Force should deliver its first report by June 1, 1999. This report should recommend those actions to be taken by the University most immediately and should serve as the framework for broader discussion by the University community. A second report should follow by November 1, 1999, reflecting this broader discussion and incorporating recommendations for organizational change and strategic investment. In all of its work, the Task Force should feel free to consult and work with other members of the University community or experts outside the University.

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