TASKS, GOALS, AND FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE
FACULTY OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Tasks

One immediate task is to start planning FCI activities for next year and for the next five years; another is to enlarge the group to suit our goals and plans and help with the first task. Yet another is to advertise the FCI.

Goals

Several goals for an FCI are clearly set out in the various documents that brought it into being: the task force reports, the faculty forum discussion, the documents for Senate debates, and the draft document from Vice Provost Bert Garza. For instance, the idea of forming a long-range plan comes from the draft document created by Bert Garza to guide our initial actions in a manner that will find support among the faculty as a whole, among the college administrations, and in the central administration.

A primary goal for the FCI is to raise Cornell's standing in the areas of instruction, scholarship and research associated with computing and information. In particular, the FCI should become a unit that will help Cornell attract more excellent students, bring additional distinguished faculty into this area and attract more research funding and donations for computing and information science activities.

Another primary goal for the FCI is creating courses and programs that will meet student needs in computing and information. Student interest in this area is now very high. Part of our mandate for spending resources is to provide better opportunities to these students. So I believe that a large part of our direct mission is undergraduate teaching in computing and information. We are expected to devote a portion of our funds to that end as well as to seeding significant research opportunities.

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