CCI 2.0 Faculty Retreat – October 26, 2007

1. What are the major strengths and distinguishing characteristics of the College of Computing and Information as compared to other computing and information colleges?
Why should a potential donor, partner, or funding agency be interested in investing in CCI?

Highly Representative
- Multi-disciplinarity (offerings to students)
- Interdisciplinarity (research combinations)
- Volunteer commitment from non CCI
- Fidelity to the idea of multi and interdisciplinarity

Somewhat Representative
- Tech Valley
  - public sector exposure
  - entrepreneurship
- Combined applied and theoretical approach
- Outreach connection to other departments

Unique
- Present to new president, provost, and students (timely to ask for resources)
- Not a lot of baggage – unique opportunity to create a new identity
- Undergraduate education for computing plus graduate education in solutions provides a unique combination for meeting entrepreneurial needs
- Distinguished research and professional degree programs

2. What contributions should CCI strive to make to its key stakeholders? Please specify contributions to named stakeholders, e.g., students, parents of students, prospective employers, other UAlbany academic units, etc.

Highly Representative
- High quality program
- Students (Graduates know what they are talking about and employers are fighting for them)
- Skills in analysis, collaboration, leadership, diverse technologies, etc.
- Appreciation for how information and computing fit the world
- Parents need to know their kids will get jobs
- Meeting employers' needs by understanding what they are and adjusting curriculum programs accordingly
- Non-CCI students – understanding CCI in the world
- CCI serving the needs of other departments

Somewhat Representative
- Other academic units
  - New kind of relationship
  - Benefit of research collaborations
- See CCI as a place where interdisciplinary work is done and done well and open to partnerships
- Parents and society as a whole
- We make society better
- Multiple audiences: we have proven ability to translate theory into practice

Unique
- Improve national rankings
- Primacy of research
- CCO as a community is also a stakeholder
- CCI faculty as stakeholders
- Government as an organization – a particular kind of stakeholder
- New stakeholders – new president and provost coming
- Across University
- We would run seminars, special events that would demonstrate CCI's challenges and opportunities across many fields
- Legislature as a governing body
- Donors

3. **In which three to five research areas should we invest future resources and highlight for potential investment by external donors in order to develop a distinctive, nationally-recognized program?**

Highly Representative
- Teaching and learning technology & IT
- Big data analysis modeling, simulation
- Build on strength
- Applied interdisciplinary research
- Management and preservation digital information (archives)
- Information assurance
- IGDS
- Informatics
- Natural language and AI
- Tie to teaching needs and student demands

Somewhat Representative
- Information policy
- Social informatics
- Cyber security
- Theoretic computer science and logic
- Areas that have high social value
- Human judgment and decision making
- Information organization and retrieval
- HCI
- Social robotics
- Financial markets
- Research and teaching together
- Let faculty do what they want

Unique
- Computer based decision support
- Robotics
- Communication landscape shift
- Robotics
- Library public sector intersections
- Formal methods

- Psychology connection
- GIS and business connections (missing from today's management)
- IS & business systems
- Software engineering
- Interaction applications of computer science
- Other disciplines
- Network stuff
- Social informatics
- Social robotics
- Video
- Algorithms

Summary
- Human Computer Interaction (HCI)
- Information for Government in a Democratic Society (IGDS)

- Teaching, Learning & IT
- Data Analysis, Modeling, Simulation
- Management preservation and digital information
- Information assurance and security
- Natural language and Artificial Intelligence

4. **How important do you see interdisciplinary collaborations in teaching and research to the success of the college? How can we foster interdisciplinary collaborations in teaching and research within and outside the college?**

Highly Representative
- Very important
- Its different for teaching and research
- Needs to happen organically, people cannot be told how
- Leverage what we already have

Somewhat Representative
- Secondary to excellence in the core disciplines
- May threaten core missions of other units within CCI
- Already doing it – forums, team teaching, new curriculum, guest speakers
- Develop through undergraduate curriculum development
- Intro level undergraduate course
- Cooperative hiring

Unique
- Need to be interdisciplinary ourselves in order to teach it
- Balance interdisciplinary research inside and outside CCI
- The field requires interdisciplinary work
- Use technology to facilitate
- Centers like CTG
- Interdisciplinary inferences within teaching of the core disciplines
- Internal grants for interdisciplinary research
- Need to define interdisciplinary research more clearly

5. **What resources – equipment, space, faculty, staff, software, etc. – do we need to strengthen to deliver a high quality curriculum? What should we put on the shopping list to prospective donors?**

Highly Representative

- Faculty lines
- Co-location and collaborative spaces
- Support staff

Somewhat Representative

- State of the art technology continuously updated
- Smart classrooms and labs
- Admin support for travel

Uniquely Representative

- Align with Apple
- Scholarships
- College wide internship coordinator
- Greater band width to enhance communication
- Use info technology for advising
- Improved access to library databases

6. **What goals, strategies, actions, projects, or initiatives should we pursue over the next 3-5 years?**

Highly Representative

- Single location
- Collaborative research programs
- College-wide collaborative undergraduate program

Somewhat Representative

- Hire first rate faculty
- Develop and communicate CCI identity
- Win major collaborative grants
- Central advising program
- Faculty investment in areas of strength
- University wide coordination of undergraduate curriculum
- Support women in CCI

Unique

- Develop lab support connected to corporations
- Create a fancy IT environment
- Multiple and meaningful internships
- Informatics connections with others (minor)
- Informatics conference
- Hire senior faculty in informatics committed to interdisciplinary connections
- Internal faculty colloquium to understand each others research better

Goals for the next 3-5 years (votes at right)

Continue to strengthen existing programs	10
Invest faculty and resources in a few high profile research areas	10
Strengthen ties to employers through needs surveys, enhanced internships, etc.	8
Create undergraduate program in computing and information	6
Invest in teaching, learning and technology for research and curriculum	5
Develop intro C & I course	5
Hire senior informatics faculty from within the University with two, ½ IT commons lines being vacated	5
Create undergraduate program in informatics and social sciences	4
Develop lunch and tea series to discuss collaborative research areas	4
Settle housing and space issue	4
Increase women enrollment to national levels	2
Develop CCI alumni group	1
Develop and communicate CCI identity	1

Follow-up

- Discussion of disciplinary strengths and relationship to interdisciplinary activities
- Discussion and definition of interdisciplinary activities and when it makes sense
- Discussion of how to make better use of faculty publications and connections
- Discussion of what we mean by co-location

Next Steps

- Follow-up on the above questions
- Develop task force to create a draft plan by year end
- Go after funding resources
- Examine structure

Vision Adjectives

- Brilliant, energetic, innovative, productive, "with it," inspiring, rich, thoughtful, entrepreneurial, unique, scholarly