

Information Technology
Office of the Vice President

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September 3, 2014

Margaret H. Carr
Associate Dean and Professor
College of Design, Construction and Planning
P.O. Box 115704
Campus Mail

Dear Dr. Carr:

The University of Florida (UF) has recently invested in infrastructure to support research across the entire campus portfolio, including geospatial data and how it interacts with numerous disciplines. In the area of geospatial data, the College of Design, Construction and Planning and the GeoPlan Center have developed expertise and shown leadership. UF Research Computing and the Office of Research have been working on a pilot project with faculty in your College and with staff in the GeoPlan Center to deploy new software capabilities that will be widely useful, in particular the UFApps for Research running on HiPerGator and the new ArcGIS services.

We want to marshal UF's geospatial information resources and capabilities in an integrated and purposeful way to support research, teaching and service. For this reason, we ask you to stand up a task force with the following charge:

To develop a strategy to place the University of Florida in the forefront of research universities that create, disseminate and apply geospatial information. To develop that strategy we encourage the Task Force to:

- approximate the current dollar amount of research that employs geospatial data and analysis
- approximate the current and projected number of students who are taking courses in geographic information systems and how many student credit hours currently are and might be generated in the future by these students
- explore the role, if any, that geospatial information creation, management, and dissemination should play within the proposed Informatics Institute
- determine what, if any, organizational structure is needed to coordinate the creation, management, and dissemination of geospatial information
- identify short term and long term investments that are needed to optimize the creation, management, and dissemination of geospatial information, organized into a 5 year plan, and

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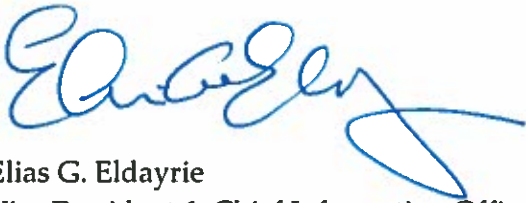
- provide tangible examples of the ways geospatial information has been and will be used in the future to describe and solve pressing problems for the State of Florida, the Nation, and the World.

We hope the task force will be able to meet at least every other week with a goal of presenting a report no later than 1 February 2015.

You proposed an initial list of candidates to be invited to serve on the task force, while also suggesting several areas in which a specific individual was not identified. Please invite the individuals you previously listed and work to find appropriate representatives in the other areas and also invite their participation.

Please work with Dr. Erik Deumens, who will be a member of the task force, to keep us informed on the progress of the task force.

Sincerely,



Elias G. Eldayrie
Vice President & Chief Information Officer



David Norton
Vice President of Research