NCAB:

I'll cover this briefly during tomorrow's meeting, but some background below on EDUCAUSE and the UCAR membership status.

Originally, we were going to take this to ITC for broader review and discussion, but Marla Meehl, Aaron Andersen, and Shawn Winkelman decided to split the cost of covering the membership fee so now it is more of a FYI item for NCAB, then later ITC and others.

Questions and further discussion tomorrow, if any.

--Jeff

Jeff Custard -- 303-497-1252
http://nets.ucar.edu/nets/intro/staff/jcustard/

UCAR membership in EDUCAUSE (http://www.educause.edu) has been provided by the UCAR Library who is now planning to remove support for this item from their budget due to budget constraints not due to the value of the membership.

It seems as though a wide IT audience from various related groups throughout UCAR currently and in the future would find EDUCAUSE resources beneficial and would support continued UCAR membership in EDUCAUSE.

This EDUCAUSE page (you see more profiles if you're logged in) shows examples of some current UCAR users, e.g. Tim Fredrick, Alex Eschbaum, Jeff Custard, etc.:

http://www.educause.edu/Community/MemDir/UniversityCorporationforAtmosphericResearchUCARNCAR/37141

and according to

http://www.educause.edu/dues

UCAR fees would be $1,235 per year (that has been confirmed--current UCAR membership runs out at the end of Jun-2011).

So before UCAR lets the UCAR membership in EDUCAUSE lapse, based on the membership value and low cost to UCAR, NETS proposes to split the fee by thirds between CISL NETS, CISL ESS, and F&A.

In many ways, Information Technology (IT) support throughout UCAR shares many similarities to IT support at institutions of higher education. Higher education IT matters are the primary focus of EDUCAUSE and besides other potential wider-ranging benefits, some examples of EDUCAUSE membership benefits for UCAR IT staff might include:

* timely coverage of technical topics at a variety of regional and national EDUCAUSE conferences (additional training and benchmarking opportunities)
* coverage of current network and security issues through various publications
* broad focus on various learning initiatives (e.g., ways to advance learning through IT innovation).
* updates on current issues facing IT as well as executive resources, and community contributions on topics such as
  -- Agreements or Contracts
  -- Certification, Education, Training and Tutorials
  -- Effective Practices
  -- Government Documents, Laws, Testimonies or Reports
  -- Policies and Procedures
  -- Project management
  -- Plans and Guidelines
  -- RFPs
  -- Surveys
  -- Wikis
  -- periodic series such as "7 things to know about ... " (useful summaries of timely IT topics)
in addition to the items noted below under resources and initiatives.

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>From http://www.educause.edu/about

EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. EDUCAUSE helps those who lead, manage, and use information resources to shape strategic decisions at every level. A comprehensive range of resources and activities is available to all interested employees at EDUCAUSE member organizations, with special opportunities open to designated member representatives.

EDUCAUSE programs include professional development activities, applied research, strategic policy advocacy, teaching and learning initiatives, online information services, print and electronic publications, special interest collaborative communities, and awards for leadership and innovation. EDUCAUSE has offices in Boulder, Colorado, and Washington, D.C.

Membership is open to institutions of higher education, corporations serving the higher education information technology market, and other related associations and organizations.

Resources include:
* professional development activities
* applied research
* strategic policy advocacy
* teaching and learning initiatives
* online information services
* print and electronic publications, including books, monographs, and the magazines EDUCAUSE Quarterly and EDUCAUSE Review
* special interest collaborative communities
* awards for leadership and exemplary practices

The current membership comprises more than 2,200 colleges, universities, and educational organizations, including 250 corporations, with more than 17,000 active members.

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Major Initiatives of Educause are:

- ECAR, the EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research, provides subscribers with timely research and analysis to help higher education leaders make better decisions about IT.
- Net@EDU promotes the development of advanced networking in higher education through member activities that span the spectrum of academic networking, from administration of campus networks to local, state, regional, national, and international networking projects.
- The EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI), is a community of institutions, organizations, and corporations committed to advancing learning through IT innovation. ELI achieves this mission through a strategic focus on learners, learning principles and practices, and learning technologies.
- The Core Data Service is a Web-based interactive database, based on an annual survey, that compares institutional IT environments and practices to help benchmark, plan for, and make decisions about IT on campus.
- Networking Initiatives are focused efforts to define and develop emerging network technologies.
- Policy Initiatives are the association’s legislative and regulatory tracking and advocacy activities involving federal policies that impact IT in higher education.
- Security Initiatives are resources on computer and network security for the higher education community.
- .edu Administration covers policies and processes for managing the .edu Internet domain, which EDUCAUSE administers under contract with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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