

RAPID CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT: FAST-TRACK CREATION OF A SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

On April 2, 2000, Georgia Southern University's newly inaugurated President announced the creation of a School or College of Information Technology as a facet of the Governor's rural economic development initiatives. The new academic unit, scheduled to be implemented Fall Semester 2001, is tasked with at least tripling the university's annual production of IT undergraduates and will be housed in a new building. This paper will describe the steps taken to operationalize the newly announced academic unit with special emphasis on curricular issues. It summarizes key aspects of a white paper produced by an ad hoc College of Business Administration committee. The white paper documents the need for the new academic unit, identifies targeted industries, outlines a forward-thinking curriculum model, proposes degree programs, includes student and faculty projections, summarizes major facilities and resources needs, proposes the creation of an "eInstitute," and provides an overview of a preliminary marketing/promotion plan. As such, the white paper's format and content are valuable to other universities faced with the challenge/opportunity to rapidly expand their IS/IT programs.