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April 12, 2013

Dr. Martha Nell Smith
Chair, University Senate
3238 Tawes Hall
College Park, MD 20742-8878

Dear Dr. Smith:

I am writing on behalf of the Senate Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee. On February 25, 2013, the ERG Committee was charged by the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) with reviewing the structure and current membership of the Information Technology Council and working to align it with the principles in the new IT Strategic Plan.

On March 5, 2013, the ERG Committee considered the charge and had a productive conversation with Michael Eismeier, Planning and Project Manager in the Division of Information Technology (DivIT), regarding the new Strategic Plan and DivIT's desire for a more active governance structure. Mr. Eismeier discussed the problems with the current IT Council and the proposed four groups imagined in the Strategic Plan Process. The committee considered a proposal for a new IT Council structure at its meeting on March 26, 2013 and made a great deal of progress on a proposal that included an extensive top-level governance body with four working groups beneath it.

However, after the meeting on March 26, it became clear that the ERG Committee would need to reexamine the proposal at a subsequent meeting. The committee received feedback from the Vice President and CIO of DivIT, who found that the proposed structure would not be successful or appropriately meet the needs of the unit. After further conversations with DivIT and the Senate Parliamentarian, it became clear that work still needs to be done to balance the differing priorities of each unit.

The ERG Committee would appreciate more time to work with DivIT to create a structure for the IT Council that will more appropriately meet its needs while still fulfilling obligations to the Senate related to the principles of shared governance and requirements for University Councils. Therefore, the ERG Committee respectfully requests an extension until August 15, 2013.

Sincerely,

Devin Hayes Ellis
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Chair, Elections, Representation, & Governance Committee
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