UCCSN Campus Technology Issues

In the course of this study the Campus Technology Officers identified a number of common issues with respect to information technology funding.

1. Planning is essential to productivity and the efficient allocation of information technology resources to support institutional priorities, but in the absence of predictable funding, planning is impossible.
2. An institution's instructional, research and administrative functions depend on the campus network and computing infrastructure, but there are very few funds earmarked for this infrastructure. An inordinate amount of time, which should be spent working with faculty and staff to develop needed services and programs, is spent seeking funds for basic expenses such as network and computing equipment, maintenance and software.
3. Academic computing is woefully underfunded, as accreditation teams have noted in the past. Consequently institutions have become very dependent on student technology fees for the most basic instructional equipment, software and lab maintenance. CTOs do recognize that the Presidents have many other woefully underfunded academic priorities as well.
4. Estate tax funding, which primarily supports campus administrative computing, will be phased out leaving critical functions unsupported.
5. Equipment replacement is funded by occasional one-shot allocations. New computers that can support current software are sometimes seen as "frosting" rather than as essential tools to the institution. The standard business practice of scheduled upgrades is impossible given the uncertain funding.
6. Support personnel for technology are critical to its success in an institution, but sufficient funding for skilled support personnel is very difficult to obtain given the ongoing commitment it requires and all of an institution's other personnel priorities.
7. IT costs will continue to increase as technology becomes ever more integrated into all aspects of the educational mission and as technology tools become more complex and resource intensive.