Strategic Plan Financial Summary

At the subcommittee meeting of October 4, 2002, questions were raised regarding the format of the financial summary of Northwestern University Information Technology (IT) Initiatives for FY2003 - FY2005 that is included as Appendix 8 of our Strategic Plan. Following is an explanation of that format.

It is important to note that these funds are not representative of the IT budget, nor do they represent all of the IT initiatives, many of which are funded within the central IT budget. Rather, they represent major technology initiatives that we believe are of primary strategic importance to the University.

Initiative
We have grouped the IT initiatives into five categories: Teaching and Learning, Knowledge Management, Student Services, Campus Services, and Network Security. The order of the groupings and the listing of initiatives within each grouping are not intended to suggest any priority order.

Incremental Cost for Fiscal Years 2003 - 2005
Reading from left to right, the first two columns - Capital and Operating - list the total estimated costs for projects over the three-year planning horizon. Capital costs are largely hardware and software purchases and facilities improvements. Operating costs includes all other non-capital costs.

The next three columns - Redeployment, Recharge, and External Funding - list the known or planned sources of funding for the costs included in the Capital and Operating columns. Redeployment represents funds that can be made available by redeploying existing resources within IT. Recharge funding largely represents charges for IT services within Northwestern University. Thus, they do not necessarily represent fresh dollars to the University.

External Funding represents anticipated grants or gifts to IT from third parties.

The Incremental Cost column is the net of the preceding columns. This represents additional funding to be identified to undertake the initiatives.

Incremental Cost by Fiscal Year
These three columns split out the Incremental Cost in the preceding column into the fiscal year in which anticipated spending will occur.

Based on your comments at the meeting, in future updates to our Strategic Plan we will present this information in a more succinct manner.