

Information Technology Committee Update

March 5th, 2026

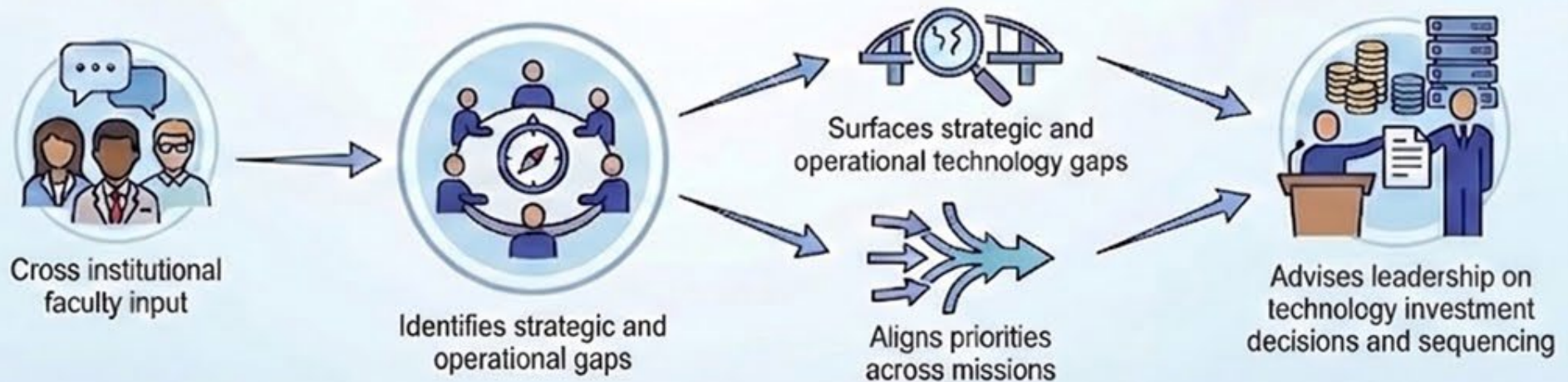
Adrian Zai, MD PhD MPH

ITC Mission and Purpose



ROLE OF ITC

The ITC serves as the School's formal advisory body to identify, prioritize, and elevate high priority technology needs.



ITC (Information Technology Committee)



New AI Subcommittee (Cross cutting)

**Basic
Science**

Education

**Clinical
Research**

**Admin
(new)**

ForHealth

AI Subcommittee



Charter

- Guide AI strategy, policy and investments
- Ensure responsible, secure and compliant use
- Integrate AI with institutional strategy and standards
- Develop expertise through learning and partnerships
- Advance AI maturity and measurable value



Membership

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Melissa Fisher
(Chair) – Academic |  Honghuang Liu
– Clinical Science |
|  Bill Barnett (Co-Chair)
– Basic Science |  Maureen Mulkerrin
– ForHealth |
|  Ricardo Posa –
Academic |  Jessica Carpenter
– ForHealth |
|  Reid Evans –
Academic |  Lee Leiber –
Admin and IT |
|  Neal Silverman –
Basic Science |  June Brooks –
Admin and IT |
|  Feifan Liu –
Clinical Science |  Brad Schultz –
Admin and IT |

AI Subcommittee

Status

- Committee Chartered by ITC
- First Meeting held
February 26, 2026
- Meeting Schedule: monthly
(next meeting March 26, 2026)

Progress

- ✓ Committee Charter Approved
- ✓ Leadership Nominated
-  Review of Institutional AI Policy
→ Action: policy draft to be sent to faculty committees to ensure consistency

Subcommittee 4-Quadrant

	Short-Term	Long-Term
High Pain		
Low Pain		

Level of Effort for Subcommittee recommendations

Size	Calendar Time	People	Cost ('000)
XS	< 1 week	1	< 5
S	1 week - 1 month	1 - 3	5 - 15
M	1 - 3 months	3 - 7	15 - 50
L	3 months - 1 year	7 - 15	50 - 250
XL	> 1 year	> 15	> 250

Top 4 Basic Science IT Challenges and Progress

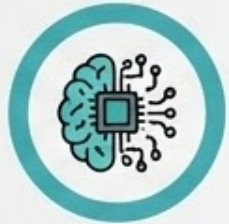


1. Research data storage does not meet needs

Current systems are insufficient for growing data volumes.

Progress

- New 5 Petabyte low-cost Research File Storage (RFS) (March 2026)
- Partnership with Amherst for public dataset sharing (March 2026)



2. AI capabilities do not meet needs

Limited access to advanced AI tools and compute power.

Progress

- 28 new GPU cards in SCI cluster (March 2026)
- AI Commons and UMass Chan Chat as institutional GenAI platform
- AlphaFold 2 and 3 supported on SCI cluster
- Research Computing AI Lab for LLM experimentation



3. Insufficient Training

Lack of specialized training for new IT resources.

Progress

- New trainings added to RCafe: AlphaFold, SCI Cluster 101, UMass Chan Chat and CoPilot



4. Security practices inhibit research

Cumbersome security protocols slow down research workflows.

Progress

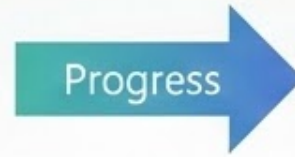
- Planning Unix workstation implementation standard

Top 4 Education IT Challenges and Progress



Faculty APR Implementation

Fragmented tools used for faculty annual performance reviews.

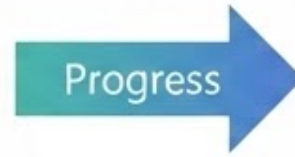


- Softdocs enterprise workflow implemented (Feb)
- Basic science APR launched March 2
- Clinical APR launching March 16 with automated reminders



Enterprise Analytics Adoption

Domains adopting analytics independently without consistent governance.

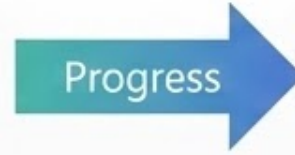


- Enterprise analytics architecture framework developed
- Adoption strategy being operationalized across domains
- Governance supports enterprise standards while enabling domain analytics



Academic Data Lake

No unified platform for academic data across systems.

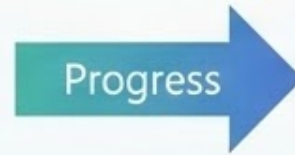


- Academic Data Lake defined as institutional platform
- Implementation underway within enterprise analytics strategy
- Supporting early curriculum and academic analytics use cases



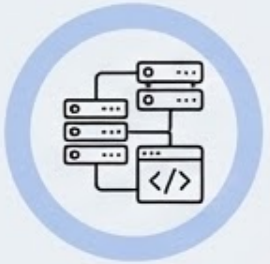
Curriculum Mapping

Limited ability to identify curriculum gaps and accreditation alignment.



- Pilot tagging course content with LCME keywords
- AI used to analyze Canvas course data
- Power BI dashboards generated for OUME review

Top 4 ForHealth IT Challenges and Progress



Technology Foundation

ForHealth applications have grown over time, creating complexity and technical debt.

Progress

- Accessibility issues across systems are being assessed and remediated
- Business capability analysis launched to identify shared needs
- Disability Determination selected to pilot a shared, composable architecture



Organizational Alignment

Digital Solutions organization not fully aligned with ForHealth strategic priorities and growth.

Progress

- Delivery teams aligning with revenue-generating business programs
- Shared enterprise solutions and opportunity capture teams being developed



Controlling Processes

IT governance and management processes need to mature for consistent enterprise delivery.

Progress

- Governance model evolving with ForHealth and UMass Chan IT leadership
- Project and portfolio management tools being implemented



IT Innovation / R&D

Continued focus on technology innovation, including generative and agentic AI, is required.

Progress

- Institutional GenAI platform adoption advancing
- Collaboration with UMass Chan to pursue client AI opportunities

Top 4 Clinical Research IT Challenges and Progress



Data Integration & External Data Access

Multi-source research data not fully integrated into AWS. Secure external integration into PLUM needed to support complex analytics.

Progress

- Evaluating solutions to securely integrate external data sources into the cloud environment.



Virtual Workspaces & Data Lab Infrastructure

Secure environments are cost-prohibitive for many researchers. Data Lab resource limitations are impacting the UMass research community.

Progress

- Institutional IT funding budgeted to support virtual workspaces in FY27
- Planning underway to expand Data Lab capacity



AI / Machine Learning Infrastructure

No standardized process for high-compute AI (ML/LLM) using EHR data. Clear policies, compliant workflows, and standardized procedures required.

Progress

- AI Subcommittee chartered to guide governance and infrastructure alignment
- Evaluating on-premises versus cloud GPU capacity



Multi-Cloud Integration (AWS & Azure)

Limited interoperability across cloud platforms. Cross-cloud integration required to enable data sharing and collaboration.

Progress

- Assessing secure architecture to bridge PLUM data in AWS with Azure.

ITC: Moving Institutional Technology Forward



Key Takeaways

- ITC is now providing a structured forum to surface technology priorities across academic, research, clinical, and administrative missions
- Subcommittees have identified major challenges and early progress areas across the institution
- New AI Subcommittee launched to guide institutional AI strategy, governance, and infrastructure alignment



Next Steps

- Continue refinement of priority IT initiatives across subcommittees
- Align priorities with institutional IT planning and budgeting
- Provide periodic updates to Faculty Council and institutional leadership



Goal

Strengthen the technology ecosystem that enables research, education, healthcare, and operations at UMass Chan.

Thank You