

C H A R T E R

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Center for Decision & Information Technologies (CDIT)

This Charter defines the purpose and responsibilities of the University of North Texas CDIT Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as the Board), the composition of its membership, the election of officers, the frequency of meetings, and its relationships with the University of North Texas (UNT), the College of Business (COB), and ITDS Department (hereafter referred to as the Department).

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of the CDIT is to provide and foster a synergistic relationship between the Information Systems & Decision Sciences professionals in public and private organizations and the academic community at UNT. Through meetings of the Director of the CDIT and the Board, research directions of CDIT associated faculty may be matched with research and development opportunities of the member organizations. Other activities which will be reviewed by the Board will include: the dissemination of ITDS knowledge through workshops, seminars, and working papers; conferences and symposia; faculty involvement and internship programs; graduate & undergraduate student cooperative research programs; and investment and expenditure of center funds. A major focus of CDIT activity will be to foster scholarship support for the recruitment and financial support of our students in ITDS.

ARTICLE 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for providing advice and recommendations to the Executive Director of the CDIT concerning future directions for CDIT programs, resource requirements, and student research projects.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

There will be one membership level. Regular membership will cost \$5,000 per year (\$3,000 for not-for-profit government organizations). Regular members will have unlimited free admissions to designated CDIT programs. However, admission to designated events may be initially limited to five (5) admissions, when the selected facility has limited seating, until such time that all member firms have had ample opportunity to register. Thereafter, additional registrations will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Subsequent membership fees will be recommended by the Board. The Board shall recommend prospective members to the Executive Director of the CDIT or the ITDS Department Chair. Membership will be by invitation of the Executive Director or the ITDS Department Chair.

Organizations which are eligible for membership typically include those organizations that have a keen interest in ITDS related research & operational activities.

ARTICLE 4: ORGANIZATION

The guidelines and eligibility for various research programs will be detailed in separate Research Grant and Award applications as they are developed. The Executive Director of the CDIT will be responsible for assisting with the management of the research grant application process.

With the CDIT focus on ITDS student recruitment, retention and support; the Executive Director will work with the Department Chair to contribute funds annually to student scholarships to awarded each Spring.

The Executive Director of the CDIT shall be a member of the Information Technology Decision Sciences Department faculty. All activities of the CDIT must be coordinated with the ITDS Department. This coordination will be accomplished with the assistance of the Chairperson of the ITDS Department.

By virtue of the nature of multi-disciplinary university centers, the Information Systems Research Center will organizationally exist as a separate unit, reporting to the Dean of the College of Business Administration, or whomever the Dean may stipulate.

The Dean of the College of Business Administration shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board.

ARTICLE 5: AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER

Amendments to the Charter of the ITDS Advisory Board will require a two-thirds (2/3's) majority vote by members of the Departmental Advisory Board present. Written proxy ballots may be submitted; however, the total ballots submitted, including abstentions, must be at least one-half of the full membership.

In order to be eligible for a vote, amendments must be submitted in writing to the Departmental Advisory Board membership at least one month (30 days) before either a regular or special called meeting. This requirement may be waived upon approval of at least two-thirds of the full membership.

ARTICLE 6: MEETINGS

The Executive Director of the CDIT in cooperation with the Chair of ITDS will develop issues to be brought before the Departmental Advisory Board

The Board shall meet no fewer than two times per academic year (September 1 through August 31). Typically, the Board meetings will be held each Spring and Fall of each academic year.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

In accordance with Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes and Immunities, Vol. 17, Section C, Chapter 84, Para. 4 ". . . a volunteer who is serving as an officer, director or trustee of a charitable organization is immune from civil liability for any act of omission resulting in death, damage or injury, if the volunteer was acting in the course and scope of his duties or function as an officer, director, or trustee within the organization."

It is the opinion of our university attorney that the CDIT Board of Directors would come under this particular law which was passed in 1987. The purpose of the act was to reduce the liability, exposure and insurance costs of these organizations and their employees and volunteers in order to encourage delivering these services.