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## COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

To:     Internet2 Board Members
From:   CIC Chief Information Officers*
Date:   September 4, 2009

As you know, the CIC Chief Information Officers have a strongly demonstrated commitment to the InCommon federation and associated activities. Over the last several years, the CIC CIOs have developed and followed through on campus strategies to invest in identity management. In June of 2006, the CIC CIOs hosted a meeting in the CIC that convened hundreds of people across the CIC in human resources, enrollment, financial aid, medical centers, research offices, id card offices and information technology. More recently, the CIC CIOs made good on the commitment to have all CIC schools become participants in InCommon, and this summer, we formed a CIC-wide task force on identity management.

In our most recent meeting, we approved three projects for this task force to take on: enabling our campuses to support InCommon Silver, developing a federated identity management pilot with Teragrid, and enabling federated/roaming wireless among CIC campuses. The CIC's commitment to identity management, and federation of identities through InCommon is strong, and our future dependency on InCommon is growing.

Our collective and joint commitments made us most interested in the outcomes associated with the InCommon Futures Task Force, and its resultant report. Our campuses were participants in the process and we were quite pleased to see the recommendations in the report. As a group, we supported the report's recommendations when it was first published, and we remain keenly interested in seeing to it that progress is made on the recommendations.

We understand that the Internet2 board has requested a business plan for elements of the recommendations, a reasonable request to be certain. Even so, we are deeply concerned that action on the recommendations will not take place with the urgency that our community, and our campuses, require. We perceive there is a limited window of influence at the federal level where InCommon may be especially influential in setting identity strategies that align with the values of higher education. Thus, we strongly advocate that Internet2 place the highest of priority on moving the recommendations of the report forward, as our dependency on InCommon and all that is necessary to support and grow its influence, increases daily.

We recognize that setting priorities is a difficult and time consuming process, particularly in these times. It is for that reason that we request a clear and timely response regarding Internet2's plans for helping to implement the InCommon Futures Report -- or guidance for alternate paths for InCommon to succeed. As the report makes very clear, the membership recognize a need for the ability to mediate trust on-line, and what is most urgent now is a clear signal from Internet2 as to how it can support this need. Given our group's commitment to these emergent

infrastructures, know that we are available to help with the gathering of the support necessary to move forward.

*CIC member institutions are:

- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois
- Indiana University
- University of Iowa
- University of Michigan
- Michigan State University
- University of Minnesota
- Northwestern University
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- University of Wisconsin-Madison

9/18/09

Dr. Douglas Van Houweling
Internet2

Dear Dr. Houweling,

The Chief Information Officers listed below, all CIOs from Research 1 universities, are writing as a group to express to you, as a member of the Internet2 Board of Trustees, our sense of great urgency that the I2 Board act decisively and immediately on the "InCommon Future Report and Recommendation." We agree with the recommended path and set of principles set forth in that report and hope they are approved and supported at the October I2 Board meeting.  Collectively, we feel this is a critical moment for a clear commitment from Internet2 to assure the stability and effectiveness of InCommon.

It is a critical moment for many reasons, not the least of which is that the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health are, after years of discussion, finally working actively with InCommon and the higher education community to implement the kinds of federated identity platforms and policies that will make interactions with one another far more efficient and secure.  If I2 fails to commit to the 3-year path and principles proposed by the InCommon Future Group *right now*, the government agencies could well question the sustainability of the solutions InCommon has developed and move instead to commercial solutions that will be far less satisfactory to higher education. We in the higher education community must assure federal agencies (and others, including vendors of scholarly material who we seek to bring into the InCommon fold) that the InCommon path is the one to which higher education is committed.

We believe there is a narrow window of opportunity to do the necessary joint work with the NSF and NIH (and hopefully other government agencies).  The report acknowledges that detailed business plans will have to be worked out in the proposed time frames.  We would urge the Board to charge the I2 leadership with responsibility for completing this work by January 1, 2010 as part of endorsing the plan. The business plan developed over these next few months may outline different roles for I2 and/or other current or new organizations.  But we believe it is critical for the entire higher education community, including I2 as the current steward of InCommon, to make it immediately and abundantly clear that InCommon is and will be a stable and dependable element in our national federated identity landscape.

Although the members of the I2 Board undoubtedly understand this well, we emphasize here that the various InCommon and I2 middleware projects addressed in the report are, in our view, as critical a set of enablers to scholarship and teaching as are the data network capacities provided by I2.  As such we are committed to their success.  The institutions of all of the undersigned either are already members of InCommon or are actively taking steps to become members. We recognize that an increase in fees or other service offsets would be required to make InCommon

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succeed.  The importance of InCommon's goals to research and education are so great that we are more than prepared to take on that additional responsibility.  For now, we need Internet2 to act decisively on the recommendations of the "Futures" report to send a message to the entire education and research community that InCommon will lead a long-term sustainable effort to which we, as a community, are firmly committed.

Sincerely,
All Chief Information Officers Listed Below

Lev Gonick
Vice President, Information Technology Services
Chief Information Officer
Case Western Reserve University

Marc Hoit
Vice Chancellor for IT and CIO
North Carolina State University

Steve Smith
Chief IT Officer
University of Alaska System

David Gift
Vice Provost, Libraries, Computing and Technology
Michigan State University

Brad Wheeler
Vice President for IT & CIO, Dean, and Professor
Indiana University

Charlie McMahon
Vice President of Information Technology
Chief Technology Officer
Tulane University

James L. Hilton
Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Professor of Psychology
University of Virginia

Patrick Burns
VP for IT and Interim Dean of Libraries
Colorado State University

Bill Clebsch
Executive Director IT Services
Stanford University

Tracy Futhey
Vice President for Information Technology
Duke University

David Lassner
Vice President for Information Technology & Chief Information Officer
University of Hawaii

Sara H. Gomez
Vice Provost/Chief Information Officer
University of Washington

Sally Jackson
Chief Information Officer & Associate Provost,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Kevin M. Morooney
Vice Provost Information Technology, CIO
Penn State

Joel M. Smith
Vice Provost and CIO
Carnegie Mellon University

Morteza Rahimi
Vice President Information Technology and CIO
Northwestern University

Jim Davis
Vice Provost for IT & CIO
Iowa State University

Brian D. Voss
Vice Chancellor for Information Technology & CIO
Louisiana State University and A&M College

Steve Fleagle
Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer
The University of Iowa

Stephen Hess
CIO
University of Utah and
Utah State System of Higher Education

Erv Blythe
Vice President for Information Technology & CIO
Virginia Tech

Gerard McCartney
Oesterle Professor of Information Technology
Vice President for Information Technology and CIO
Purdue University

Ron Kraemer
Vice Provost for Information Technology and CIO
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Rich Fagen
Director, Information Technology Services
California Institute of Technology

Daniel D. Moriarty
CIO
Harvard University

Shelton Waggener
Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer
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Elazar C. Harel
Assistant Vice Chancellor and CIO
University of California, San Diego

Laura M. Patterson
Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer
University of Michigan

Carl Jacobson
Vice President of Information Technologies and CIO
University of Delaware

Michele Norin
Chief Information Officer
University of Arizona

Ilee Rhimes
Chief Information Officer and Vice Provost for Information Technology Services
University of Southern California

Peter M. Siegel
CIO and Vice Provost
University of California, Davis

Dr. Jeffrey Huskamp
Vice President and CIO
University of Maryland

Larry Conrad
Vice Chancellor for IT and CIO
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jim Davis
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September 25, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your thoughtful letters in support of the InCommon Future Report and Recommendation. The Board and I agree with you that we are at a critical moment in time with regards to InCommon services and identity management middleware. Your support over the last decade has enabled Internet2 to invest more than thirteen million dollars from membership dues in the development of the standards and tools upon which InCommon is now built. The National Science Foundation has added grant funding of more than six million dollars for a total investment of more than nineteen million dollars.  Our colleagues around the world are now working with us to further develop and implement compatible technology. Internet2 is committed to advancing the evolution of identity middleware and InCommon through the development of tools, shared policies, and standards that continue to be adopted by higher education, agencies and industry in this country and around the world.  We all recognize that the success of this endeavor to date has also required a concomitant investment at the campus level. All of this investment is a testament to the dedication of leading experts in our community to creating an open identity management environment to support scholarship and research in the United States and around the world.

The Internet2 Board of Trustees at their meeting on Wednesday discussed the Report and your request for Internet2 action.  The Board recognized that InCommon has become critical infrastructure and the need for our development, outreach, and services efforts to be a stable and dependable part of the identity management environment. Further we recognized the importance of capitalizing on the "window of opportunity" for joint efforts with others, such as the NSF and NIH.  The Board also reviewed a draft business plan for this set of InCommon activities, which includes a fee increase from InCommon participants to assist in funding our response. It is clear that the community is ready to join together in an effort to accelerate all dimensions of middleware activity, including leadership and advocacy, foundation software technologies and operational capacities.  The Board therefore agreed to support immediate further investment to solidify current services and preserve future opportunities. Furthermore the Board has put this on its agenda for its December meeting.

In particular, the September 23rd meeting of the Internet2 Board unanimously supported the following resolution:

*Resolved: That the Board of Internet2 believes that InCommon provides the best path for continued development of identity management services for the higher education community and for the nation generally.  The InCommon Future Group has provided vital leadership in recommending next steps to ensure continued rapid development of InCommon Identity Federation as the common platform for our community. The Board is firmly committed to ensuring that InCommon is properly positioned to provide sustainable leadership in this field for the indefinite future.  It directs Internet2 management to continue*
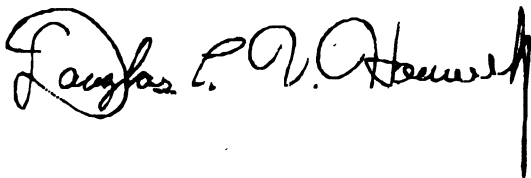
*to work along that path as part of its ongoing operations, and also to work with the Governance and Nominations Committee of the Board to bring any necessary governance policy recommendations to the Board for action as required.*

This action of the Board was catalyzed by member concerns such as was expressed in your letters, conversations among Internet2 senior leadership, InCommon Steering leadership, and AMSAC; all of whom are now actively engaged in planning for increased investment in InCommon and the relevant cluster of activities. More specifically, based on the InCommon Interim Business Plan presented to the Board, Internet2's preliminary budget plan now includes an increase in the identity middleware area from $1.94 million in 2009 to $3.37 million in 2010. This increase will be supported by funds from Internet2 reserves, increased InCommon participation fees, and fees for new InCommon trust services. Given the Board's commitment to action, I proposed and received support for a prompt search for an executive director for this effort. The Executive Director will lead the implementation of InCommon's strategic initiatives represented in the current set of supported middleware activities, as well as current and additional trust services such as: continued support of InCommon "basic" Federation services; InCommon Silver and Bronze; new InCommon server Certificate services; Shibboleth training and identity management consulting; and consulting and assisting in the operation of other identity federation infrastructures.

These activities will also require additional staff support. Internet2 management will continue to work with the InCommon Steering Committee to fully integrate these plans into the 2010 Internet2 budget for approval at the December meeting of the Internet2 Board. We also anticipate recommendations from the Internet2 Governance and Nominating Committee regarding InCommon governance.
I am confident that continued support by Internet2, the increased levels of support offered by you, InCommon participants and others in the community will in total address the immediate needs for advancing our community's middleware capability. I agree that the InCommon effort is at a critical moment in its evolution I look forward to the continued dialog as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Van Houweling
President and CEO
Internet2