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## Information Technology Governance at UW Oshkosh

The governance of enterprise information technology has evolved to a globally recognized framework published by ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association) with certified practitioners. The “COBIT 5” framework is considered by IT auditors to be the standard for evaluating the emerging field of IT investment management. As ISACA notes:

*IT investments represent a profound conundrum within many enterprises. There are no other investments... that occupy such a large and growing expenditure, yet lack disciplined management, processes and performance measurements.*<sup>1</sup>

COBIT 5 defines best-practice functions for the effective governance of information technology to establish disciplined management:

<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	balanced portfolio management and prioritization of investments to enable strategic objectives
<b>Value Delivery</b>	program management and project support to ensure investments are effectively executed and intended benefits are realized
<b>Risk Management</b>	monitoring, evaluating and mitigating investment risks; realizing opportunities
<b>Resource Optimization</b>	allocation of resources (financial, human, and tangible) in alignment with priorities
<b>Stakeholder Transparency</b>	communicating with constituents to provide insight and clarity into decision making processes, investment status, and outcomes

Modeling on the COBIT 5 standard, effective governance in higher education can be achieved through:

- Executive leadership giving direction and priorities
- Constituent input informing leadership of functional needs
- Policies and defined processes to guide behavior
- Administrative execution of governance functions

Following is a proposed governance structure for UW Oshkosh based on the COBIT 5 standard and adapted from a similar governance structure successfully exercised at Montana State University.

### Narrative Overview

- **Executive direction** is provided by the Information Technology Executive Council (ITEC). The ITEC sets strategic priorities and resolves conflicts among competing constituent demands that cannot be resolved at lower levels.
- **Constituent input** is presented to the ITEC through standardized business cases that summarize cost, benefit, risk, and alignment with institutional strategic objectives. The Office of the CIO assists in developing each business case in a consistent format.
- **Policies and processes** are established and maintained in order to assure compliance with governance decisions and guide human activity.
- **Administrative execution** of governance functions is provided by the Office of the CIO, assuring strategic alignment, value delivery, risk management, resource optimization, and stakeholder transparency.

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<sup>1</sup> ISACA, 2011. CGEIT Review Manual.