

# MEMO

To: UCA Faculty Senate

From: Dr. Brent Hill, Department of Biology Chair



Date: 9/8/2016

Re: Concerns about the conversion to Microsoft's Active Directory

The Department of Biology has several concerns about the conversion of UCA's computers to Microsoft's Active Directory. We understand and recognize that the Novell system (which it will replace) is out-of-date and has problems. Also, the conversion will improve security concerns that were pointed out by the HLC. However, there are some significant issues that need to be addressed by the IST leadership to the faculty. I will briefly outline them below.

1. There has been little to no communication about this computer conversion. We are deeply concerned that faculty, chairs, and deans were not adequately consulted about how this conversion **will impact their departments and colleges**. College deans were just alerted about this conversion a couple of months ago. This conversation should have started with faculty a year ago.
2. We are concerned that IST will have administrative control of all computers. This presents significant problems about the **potential breach of confidentiality** of information stored on computers (such as exams, hiring information, evaluations, student information, patents, on-going collaborations, etc.) Furthermore, there is a possibility that undergraduate students could (even by accident) gain access to passwords for computer access. If students work at the IT help desk (and for the IST) they could potentially have access to this information.
3. We **need to have flexibility from IST to request administrative control** over our computers; the Department of Computer Science is already exempt from all computer requirements due to their accreditation. It is extremely likely that 75% of our Department, and the College of Natural Science & Mathematics will need administrative control. There are many times where software, drivers, and plug-ins need to be installed and can't be planned for when teaching and conducting research. Also, there are times when we are working at home (during "off" hours and weekends), attending meetings, and giving presentations where administrative control is needed. **Not having this control will have significant impact upon teaching and research productivity.**