In 2006, IST successfully tested recovery plans for Accounts Receivable (CARS), the Office of the Registrar (student registration, student records, and classroom scheduling), and the Financial Aid Office (including nightly updates, CARS interfaces, and loan and processing transactions). In 2005, Payroll was tested. In 2007, other critical campus computing systems will be tested in addition to continuing implementation of a reciprocal agreement with UCLA to collocate critical systems, including CalNet, Active Directory, Web Services, and People Locator (used for emergency communication). All these efforts are in support of meeting the 2001 Business Resumption Plan goal of resuming teaching, research, and administrative functions within 30 days of any major disaster. For five years, this work has chiefly been funded through central campus allocations.

1. Alignment with IT Strategic Plan

Critical issue 4 of the IT Strategic Plan, “Security, reliability, access,” directly aligns with business resumption planning as a core infrastructure service requiring stable funding (see Reliability point 2, “Reliable funding” as an especially pertinent concern). Reliability of and access to systems supporting teaching and learning, research, and key administrative functions, including their recovery in the event of a disaster, no matter what the scale, is an integral component of the campus IT strategic plan.

2. Impact

The entire campus would be affected in the case of a major disaster. Effective business resumption planning will enable the campus to resume operations within 30 days by continuing to pay our staff, continue our business processes, and support our missions of teaching, learning, and public service.

3. Risk assessment

The probability of a major disaster, such as an earthquake, affecting the University increases over time. Planning strategically now will mitigate the effect of any disaster in the future.

Generally, an interruption longer than 30 days will likely force the cancellation of the semester. One lost semester will compromise our viability as a premier institution of higher learning. For example, Tulane University closed for a semester after the Katrina disaster; they lost faculty, students, staff, and athletes to other institutions. Even though Tulane reopened in January 2006, it suffered the closure of departments, research labs, and academic programs, and the related layoff of faculty and staff.

IST is a key partner in the campus business resumption upon which the campus depends. Codependency with UCLA as a recovery partner is a key strategic move. The campus risks being unable to access in a timely way sensitive and protected data without an effective and secure business resumption plan.
For a University of Berkeley’s stature – not only nationally, but internationally – to NOT prepare for a predicted disaster would open the University to criticism and ridicule. This negative impact on reputation could also negatively affect faculty, student and staff recruitment and retention, and our ability to continue to compete for research, gift, and/or endowment funding.

4. Innovation

The key innovation in Business Resumption Planning is leveraging our backup and recovery capacities across the UCs. This is not only fiscally prudent, but technologically savvy.

5. Funding model

The funding model for Business Resumption Planning activities is predicated on collaboration between the functional owners of the targeted applications (e.g., VC-Administration, Office of the Registrar, the Graduate Division, and Undergraduate Affairs) with IST as the technical partner, as well as collaboration with the central Office of Business Resumption.

Since inception of the campus Business Resumption Plan in 2001, Payroll, CARS, various systems at the Office of the Registrar and the Financial Aid Office have been the only critical central campus systems funded for a recovery environment. In order to expedite plan development and deployment covering the additional critical systems that have been identified in the Plan, as well as implementing the reciprocal agreement with UCLA, additional FTE and support costs – an additional $58,000 -- will be needed. The costs include target salary amounts for both the current and the additional FTE based on market trends and recenthirings, established baseline support costs, and quotes from the hotsite vendor for the renewal of the upgraded hotsite contract, necessary due to increased mainframe usage. Hardware maintenance and refresh costs are also included.

This additional $58,000 supports approximately 50% of a Programmer/Analyst IV. Not having this function fully staffed would result in fewer systems being deployed this coming year, with a subsequent slowdown in following years.

Attached is a spreadsheet which gives a multi-year view of this continuing activity. All sources of funding are noted for this campus activity. While the costs have increased, we have accomplished some restructuring of our funding and redistributed cost savings.

One major cost savings that is built into this request is the elimination of a hotsite contract once the reciprocal agreement with UCLA is fully implemented in FY 09. Those costs savings, including the $15,000 from FY 08, will be rolled back into support for this activity.

In addition, cost savings realized by functional owners of business applications -- VC-Administration; Office of the Registrar; Graduate Division; Undergraduate Affairs – will be used to support the IST part of this initiative. These cost savings are due to the shutdown of cross-division scuba-diving. As scuba-diving is phased out over time, the level of central campus funding decreases as the level of departmental funding increases. Shutting down the scuba-diving activity poses little risk to the Berkeley campus as UC Santa Cruz has agreed to take up this activity and it allows for reinvestment into strategic directions.

If this activity is not funded, we as a campus will fall further and further behind in our preparedness for disaster. Given the lessons learned from Katrina and our own knowledge of our seismic vulnerability, this is far from prudent.