

# Digital Pillar Team Update – March 4, 2021

## UW: a first-in-class Digital Institution

- The team focuses on how existing infrastructure and organizational structures at UW can be strategically utilized and built upon to support the Digital Pillar. Discussions concentrate on how existing programs work together, where gaps are, how those can be addressed, and how UW will build out toward a broad, deliberate vision to shape UW into a first-in-class institution with respect to digital.

## Supporting UW and the State of Wyoming

- Developing a broad-based, faculty-driven approach is essential. Infusing the Digital Pillar into the student experience will be effective only through working with departments on what their needs are and valuing their unique perspectives. Involving stakeholders around UW and the State, focusing on engagement to strengthen partnerships and relationships both on and off campus is central.

## Connections to Innovation, Interdisciplinary, Inclusion Pillars

- The Digital Pillar team works with the goal of supporting and working with the 3 other Pillars. A robust and transformative digital infrastructure will enable innovation at UW; gaining insight from different areas and programs about how the Digital Pillar can support them will facilitate interdisciplinarity; using that insight will support inclusion.

## School of Computing

- The team is exploring how a UW School of Computing could be structured and utilized. The team has looked at digital transformations at other universities, and they are working on defining the mission and vision for a School of Computing. Development of a School of Computing should be informed by UW's unique strengths and dedicated to addressing existing gaps.
- A School of Computing should act as a catalyst for the University, stimulating research and bringing in resources that support the whole enterprise and the whole University. It will likewise address needs and help guide students and faculty to solutions for problems they identify. It should also help them to identify needs going forward.

## Gathering Input from Broader UW Community

- The team's discussions thus far have focused extensively on how to best engage with the broader UW community. Members recognize that creating the right atmosphere for faculty, students and staff to pinpoint needs and ask questions will create interest and generate enthusiasm for expanding digital at UW. Different approaches to start discussions, varied focus groups, and materials to stimulate conversation can be utilized.
- The team is considering ways to provide environments for discussion that are welcoming, as well as initial materials that give different programs and departments ways to think about how the work they are doing now can be supported by a School of Computing going forward.

## Guided by a Mission Statement

- The Digital Pillar Team's discussions have also focused on creating a proposed mission statement for a School of Computing. Developing a mission statement has focused

discussions and guided plans for the group thus far, and the mission statement agreed upon will keep the group's work focused as they move forward developing an initial draft report.