



ISRC Notes – May 1999

Annual Planning Meeting

The ISRC annual planning meeting was held May 20, 1999 and was attended by representatives of the majority of the member firms. This was our key formal opportunity to receive input from the member organizations relative to the topics they want to see presented next year and to discuss changes in programs and services provided by the ISRC.

In the meeting we reviewed the events of the past year and noted that the attendees gave a rating of 4.5 out of 5.0 on the overall value of the sessions. This continues and indeed improved upon the ISRC's long tradition of high quality executive seminars and service offerings. It is the Members' suggestions and participation that keeps the topics relevant and maintains their value to the attendees. The annual financial review of the ISRC showed that the organization was able to cover all the costs of the seminars and other activities and provide a modest level of support to the College of Business.

The costs of providing a quality education to our MIS majors keeps going up and our enrolments have been growing rapidly. The funding available to the Department to meet this increase in demand has not been keeping pace. To help provide additional resources to the department, its students and the faculty an increase in the ISRC annual dues was discussed. The current \$5,000 annual membership fee has not been changed in over a decade. A proposal was made to increase the fee to \$7,500 with discounts for multi-year membership commitments. In addition the Center is proposing to add a series of new services to compensate for the fee increase. Four new potential services were discussed and an opinion poll was conducted. The Membership vote was very favorable to including the CBA Career Days fee and maintaining the ISRC Technology Pavilion and also was enthusiastic about the proposed ISRC To Go service, where college faculty would come the member organization once a year and conduct specialized in-house seminars on topics of interest. (Detailed descriptions of the four proposed services were provided to all ISRC Members in advance of the meeting).

Based on the discussions at the meeting, the Center will be examining its fee structure and service offerings for the 1999-00 program of events. Details will be provided to the members over the summer months. After this review of Center operations the group turned its attention to possible topics for next years seminar series.

Possible Topics for the 1999-2000 Year

A number of seminar and roundtable topics were discussed for the next academic year. They are grouped below under the key themes suggested.



❖ **Valuing IT**

- Assessing the value of ERP investments
- Realizing the value of ERP investments
- How to get sustained value out of assets already in place
- Total cost of ownership
- Understanding IT usage and value in a distributed environment

❖ **Technology oriented themes**

- Telecommunications
- Imaging
- Trade-offs in Web technologies

❖ **Relational themes**

- Business versus IT relationship management
- Benchmarking
- IS contract (re)negotiation
- Using offshore resources
- Marketing the IS function

❖ **Management themes**

- Managing the virtual organization
- Trends in design of IT organizations
- IT success in the global environment?
- Support management (roundtable)
- IT demand management

❖ **Application themes**

- Profitable E-commerce
- Knowledge management applications
- Datamining
- Data warehousing
- Telecommuting
- Sales force automation

We will be reviewing these suggested topics and themes to build our line-up for next year. As always if you have suggestions about speakers, topics or the operations of



the ISRC please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope to see you at our final event for this year, the White Paper presentation on June 10, 1999 at 5:30pm in the UH Hilton. Please plan to attend, we look forward to seeing you there.

