TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Committee on Budget and Resource Allocation (COBRA)

SUBJECT: Use of Electronic Resources and Communications to Reduce Costs and Streamline Communications

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Senate endorse the following recommendation regarding the use of electronic resources and communications:

Faculty are encouraged to use electronic resources and communications in department, college, committee, and teaching activities to reduce costs and streamline communications.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 2007-08, the Academic Senate revised the distribution policy of the Senate and approved the use of Sharepoint as a new electronic collaboration tool for Senate committees. The use of Sharepoint was endorsed because it improved efficiency and was more ecologically and financially sound than copying and sending out mounds of paper to committee members.

In response to the tight budgetary situation, COBRA members are further recommending that faculty increase the use of electronic resources and communication tools to go beyond Senate committees, including department, college, committee, and teaching activities. Suggestions include the use of Sharepoint where appropriate for department, college and committee work, and increased use of Blackboard for communication and teaching activities. This recommendation was approved by COBRA at its meeting on November 21, 2008. When endorsed by the Academic Senate, this recommendation should be communicated by the Senate Office to the University at-large.