Terry Tatum welcomed everyone to the meeting.

As the first item on the agenda, Doug Rigney updated the Advisory group on the Student System project. Training has begun on the financial model and a full time trainer will begin in April. There is currently a part time trainer. The FSA Atlas tool will be up and running in May. Go live for Admission is set for July 3rd and go live for Advancement training is set for August 28th. ODS, the Operational Data Store can extract student information and put it into a reporting repository and will go live around the time that the Advancement goes live. Xtender is a document imaging product which will work with Banner with a go live of mid September. Go live for all products is June 07. Dr Orthner inquired about archiving old information. Doug stated that this is part of the conversion process. Sheila Sanders stated that they will make a note to talk about this at the next Student System meeting.

Terry asked Bob Cloud to discuss the email issues. Bob provided handouts to everyone regarding postmortem on the email outage and stated that he is working with Microsoft. Bob then updated the group on the Exchange 2003 upgrade and provided a handout. All email users are on 2003 servers and public folders have been migrated. MB2 will be used for growth of new mailboxes. Dr. Orthner wanted to test a server product which would require a schema extension in our Active Directory. Terry Tatum stated what we have not already made this schema change but we will look at this. There is an Active Directory operations committee who will need to evaluate this.

Tommy Foley inquired about the strategy for wireless devices. Terry discussed that the Mobile Device Strategy group is looking to make a formal recommendation. Since our e-mail system is Exchange 2003 and it will natively support management of Windows Mobile devices without having to run additional servers, this would seem to be a natural fit if the devices perform well. The group is investigating this trying to balance performance, features and economics. The user cost has not been finalized. More will come on this issue in a future meeting.
Dave Shealy updated the group on the IT Anti-Spam efforts and a new proposed service, SpamBlocking which by default would block incoming messages scored at 10 or more stars as being likely spam. His PowerPoint presentation is available at http://www.uab.edu/it/advisory/minutes.html. Once this is implemented if an email has a star of 10 or above by default it would not reach a users email box. The implantation is schedule for March 10, but anyone that wants to opt out is able to at http://www.uab.edu/it/spamblock. Terry asked if there was a motion to endorse this SpamBlocking proposal. Dr. Orthner made a motion to endorse and the group agreed and was unanimously endorsed. The spam tagging will affect all @uab.edu addresses including departmental addresses. Landy Manderson will integrate this functionality into the phonebook application. John Coles asked about what kind of performance impact this will have on the server. Terry Tatum stated that the load on the servers should go down, since they will no longer be working to strip viruses from all of those spam messages. Chris Green stated that setting a score of 10 will help the problem of receiving so much spam. The group is continuing to investigate additional options to continue to reduce the amount of spam that makes it to end users including blocking some of the addresses that we know do not exist. Tommy Foley pointed out that some schools still have other email addresses outside of AD like Engineering. Terry stated that the spam team is working on issues like this.

Terry Tatum discussed BlazerNET. There have been focus groups to find out what people wanted. Participation was great and there were 853 requests out of these groups. The BlazerNET team is currently going through these requests to narrow down items. Then there will be some content planning sessions to design what channels and tabs will be proposed as phase 1 for BlazerNET.

Karen Shader provided an update to the WebCT VISTA Project. Currently this is in a pilot phase. Karen showed the group a course template via web. There are 2 institutes we have created, an academic institute with for credit courses, and a training institute with internal training courses. We are currently migrating courses on WebCT Campus and Blackboard to WebCT VISTA and have been discussing how to customize for specific schools. The project is on target and we are in contact with faculty and have emailed current instructors and designers a request form to migrate their courses and opened up training courses for them.

Stephanie DeRieux reminded everyone that the new directory is being distributed.

Sheila discussed the NLR and the bid is going out over the summer and everyone is excited about this opportunity.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55AM.