

# Recommendations of the CRA Academic Structures Task Force

- Membership
- Programs

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# Task Force Charge, Part 1

## Membership:

*In light of the development of a variety of academic units in computing, information science, information technology and related areas, does CRA need to broaden or modify the types of units that it invites as members?*

# Task Force Charge, Part 2

## Programs:

*How should the development of a variety of academic units in computing, information science, information technology and related areas affect the research and graduate education issues that CRA deals with and the programs it undertakes?*

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## **Membership -- Current Members of CRA (circa winter 2002)**

- **159 Academic Departments** – vast majority are Ph.D. granting CS departments; 13 separate ECE/CE departments; 8 information schools or departments
- **25 Laboratories and Centers** – 16 industry, 5 university, 4 government
- **6 Professional Societies**

# Membership – Recommended Guiding Principle

The focus of CRA should continue to be on computing and research, in a broad way. Beyond being the home for research-oriented computer science programs, this includes providing research-oriented links to undergraduate computing programs, and welcoming units involved with computing and information science technology beyond computer science, particularly when there is no competing home for the research mission of these units.

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# **Implication – CRA likely to be primary home for:**

- Computer science departments with active Ph.D. programs
- Computing research labs in academia, industry and government
- Research-oriented schools of information science, informatics, and information technology
- Undergraduate and masters-level computer science departments that desire a strong link to computing research

# **Implication – CRA likely to be secondary home for:**

- Computer engineering and electrical and computer engineering departments
- Departments, laboratories or centers that emphasize focused applications of computing such as scientific computing, bioinformatics, or medical informatics

# Impacts and Changes

Largely consistent with current practice; enhancements include:

1. Articulating the desire to involve a growing number of research laboratories, centers and institutes in CRA
2. Clarifying the membership of computer science departments that do not offer a Ph.D. but have research-active faculty and research aspirations for their students
3. Encouraging the membership of research-focused information science and technology schools in CRA

# Important Observation

Although CRA's core mission is focused on enabling computing research, it will continue to serve a valuable role in secondary areas including

- faculty development
- administrative leadership
- education
- increasing the number of women and under-represented minorities in information technology and educational programs and careers

# Task Force Charge, Part 2

## Programs:

*How should the development of a variety of academic units in computing, information science, information technology and related areas affect the research and graduate education issues that CRA deals with and the programs it undertakes?*

# Programs – Recommendations

1. CRA should continue to emphasize advocacy for computing and IT-related research in traditional and new areas.
2. CRA should play an increasing role in promoting research on, and providing expertise in, public policy formulation related to computing.
3. CRA should play a role in helping new computing and information-oriented units form and evolve.
4. CRA's role in undergraduate education should be oriented towards research.

## Programs – Observations

- CRA's research advocacy should include not only traditional federal agencies such as NSF and DARPA, but also emerging research opportunities in areas including computing research within NIH, distributed and Internet libraries, educational technology, and commercial computing
- CRA's role in undergraduate education should emphasize research experiences for undergraduates, increasing the participation of women and minorities in computing research careers, and faculty development for research

# Briefest Summary

No basic change in mission, but  
somewhat broader tent

