

Senate Computing and Information Technology Committee

January 24, 2020 -- 10:00AM

Room 717 CL

Attending: Allen DiPalma, Ken Doty, Gosia Fort, Stacie Gabriel, Dwight Helfrich, Adam Hobaugh, Arif Jamal, Jong Jeong, Alexandros Labrinidis, Marty Levine, Sami Mian, Anais Peterson, Kimberly Phillips, Ralph Roskies, Susan Sereika, Michael Spring, Steve Wisniewski

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from the December 13, 2019 meeting were approved as mailed.

New Business: There were no items of new Business.

Chair's Matters: (Michael Spring):

- CIO Mark Henderson will be out for four weeks due to a surgical procedure.
- Several new members have joined the committee:
 - Kimberly Phillips is now attending on behalf of Staff Council, she's originally from FIS but now a part of Pitt IT
 - Stacie Gabriel is helping with the minutes, she's Mark Henderson's Executive Assistant
 - Dwight Helfrich from Pitt IT is here to provide an update on Canvas
 - Anais (Katherine) Peterson is representing the Student Government Board
 - Allen DiPalma, from the Office of Research is joining us today to talk about export controls
- Senate Governance Role related to Data Analytics: A couple years back, questions were raised about how data sources such as Academic Analytics were used. One result was an effort by Jinx Walton, then CIO, to work on Data Governance. A committee was also formed by the Provost to figure out how to use analytics related to faculty data and there were ideas, but they could not move forward until Data Governance guidelines were established. The University wide effort on data governance was put on hold during the transition to a new CIO. The issues pertaining to data governance and data usage are complex – including policies, technical controls, and both simple and complex applications.
Moving forward, the Senate Standing committees will play different roles. The question for SCITC is what, if any role should we play. The SCITC may be able to clarify what the terms mean and what the issues are for others. At the very highest level of the university, the question of protections for the university community is likely one for our committee. It is likely that the specifics and mechanics of various efforts, such as the current Pathways efforts aimed at improving how we help students.

CIO Report (Adam Hobaugh for Mark Henderson)

- Windows 7 and Server 2008, end of support was January 14, 2020. We're working across the University to try to mitigate any issues for anyone. At the end of March, Network access to devices that have not been upgraded. Susan Sereika asked if there will be a cost to upgrade. Adam indicated he will look into it. Ken Doty provided a link that describes how to upgrade to Windows 10 for free. <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/can-i-still-download-windows-10-free-yes-heres-how/> It is not for every Windows 7 version. For example, Windows 7 Enterprise is not supported. Spring suggested that Adam let Marty (University Times) know once a specific date is reached, so that we can make everyone aware. Maybe making a stark statement with a

specific deadline will have the desired impact. Alex advised that we continue to follow up on this and Adam reassured everyone that we've been communicating this every other week to every channel we have access to. Michael asked Gosia Fort to reach out to see if this can be reported to Faculty Assembly. Kenny offered putting this in their newsletter as well.

- Dwight Helfrich reported on Canvas deployment. We expanded Canvas to 370 classes and 380 teachers. We're converting two years of classroom content from Blackboard to Canvas and spreading awareness through many outlets (mailing, e-mail, etc). All faculty have access to log into Canvas and there's a demo course that they can use as well as in-person training. The faculty that's currently using it has been surveyed and 93% said it's at least/as good/much better than Blackboard. There will be some minimal faculty effort in every class, most faculty members are deciding to start fresh on their courses in Canvas and it takes approximately 7 hours to set up that way. Everything's running smoothly, and faculty should have summer semester content access in early February. Dwight mentioned that faculty can add other teachers to classes within Canvas. Canvas will become the only option starting the summer semester and in June, Blackboard will no longer be used. However, there will still be a limited number of people who will have access to the content once Blackboard is offline.
 - Spring suggested that there should be some statistical details about class transition "costs" for various types of courses for others to see so that we can anticipate any potential problems.
 - Labrinidis asked if there's any integration with any other applications. Dwight is going to investigate it.
 - Sereika indicated that there may be some issues for courses that are taught less frequently. Spring asked that a communication from Pitt IT be sent out to the academic units stating what courses will and will not be converted to Canvas from Blackboard.

Computing and Export Controls Regulations (Allen DiPalma)

Allen DiPalma spoke with the committee about issues that may arise related to Export Controls related to IT issues.: There are possible issues with Pitt employees that go to certain countries (Iran, Cuba, North Korea, etc.). There are strict controls on exports to those countries through the government. If there's an export, that's a licensable action. Depending on what use they make of VPN into our system and perform work activities, there could be issues. However, Allen needs to know what they're accessing, what kind of activities they're undergoing/what they're doing with it before access can be granted. It's all situationally specific and each license is individual with a long pre-approval process.

Example from Michael: Would an article from Hillman be controlled since it's not readily available to the public (you must be affiliated to Pitt)? Allen would need to know what other libraries these articles are in and if they were made to be available to the general public. In general Pitt community members shouldn't be accessing Pitt's IT resources if they're traveling back and forward to highly controlled countries regardless of their citizenship. A license needs to be filed well in advance.

Roskies asked if there's a set policy through Pitt IT to deny access if anyone's trying to connect to the VPN in one of these countries. This is something we need to look into and that we need to publicize.

In general, Allen indicated that the current controls that are in place have allowed us to work well within the regulations. We can always do better, but if faculty and students operate within the system, flags

will be raised that will allow the University to provide the needed information and support that allows individuals and the institution to comply with federal regulations.

Old Business

There was no time to address any of the items on the old business list.

- Faculty Software Access (technology.pitt.edu/faculty-software)
- Mobile Application deployment (Babichenko)
- Game hosting/publishing platform (Babichenko)
- Faculty without university phone numbers (Spring)

Spring Term Meeting Schedule:

- Fri, Feb 21, 10:00AM
- Thurs, Mar 19, 1:30PM
- Thurs, Apr 16, 1:30PM

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Draft minutes submitted for review by:

Michael Spring
February 1, 2020