

## Senate Computing and Information Technology Committee

### September 30, 2020 – 1:00 PM

### Room 717 CL by Zoom

**Attending:** Michael Spring, Mark Henderson, Adam Hobaugh, Chad Burton, Stacie Gabriel, Marty Levine, Sami Mian, Susan Sereika, Douglas Fischer, Ralph Roskies, Kim Barlow, Arif Abdullah Jamal, Irene Frieze, Kenny Doty, Fran Yarger, Dmitriy Babichenko, Chris Bonneau, Vinnie?

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes from the August 31, 2020 meeting were approved as mailed with no changes.

#### Chair's Report(Michael Spring)

- **Cloud Storage and Research Data Management:** We need to separate the issues of cloud storage and research data management; box vs. one drive, etc. Mark Henderson and Rob Rutenbar are going to take the lead on this and are going to engage many others in the process.

He has reached out to faculty members to get a gauge on their needs. He emphasized the importance of consulting with faculty who are heavy users. He has talked with some and they emphasized simple access controls, speed for large images and such, concern about Microsoft hegemony, security and HIPPA compliance, the fact that one drive seems sluggish for large files, etc. They indicated grant applications may specify box, journals require access to data “in perpetuity.”

The October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting will be joint with Research to begin to address these issues.

- **Race, equity, and justice:** Every committee has been asked to self-examine itself in how we can improve our functions. Michael couldn't come up with any suggestions on how to address these issues since our issues tend to be more technical and is open to feedback on how we can improve this.

Mark Henderson: Pitt IT has been focused on how to bridge digital divide types of issues. When we made the pivot to remote teaching and work, we supplied hundreds of devices to members of the Pitt community who were underserved, and it became evident that there were a ton of broader issues. We opened the help desk to underserved people, helped people in Homewood with their licensing, we have an initiative with MetaMesh to provide internet connectivity to underserved areas in the Pittsburgh area, we provide opportunities for minority students to gain experience through working for Pitt IT, etc. Many of these people are at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to their work, education, access to news, etc. These are just a few of the ways that we can support people in need and help our community.

Ralph Roskies: Since we've gotten good at giving remote workshops, we opened our workshops to historically black colleges and universities. Our first effort will be with Howard University and they'll try it out this fall to see if it will work well for other places. Another idea is to open internships to undergraduates-this internship will be for students interested in the computing world who are underserved.

- **Policy Reviews:** Mark Henderson has initiated the review of University policies regarding networking and access and use of computers at Pitt. The charters have been approved by the Chancellor. There will be committees formed for each. Spring has contacted three people for each committee, and they have agreed to serve. For Networks: Martin Weiss, SCI, David Salcido, Med, Kenny Doty, SCITC. For Computer access and use. Dimitriy Babichenko, SCI, Kevin Conley, SHRS, Michael Spring, SCITC. Spring asked if the committee had any changes or alternative suggestions. There were none. Susan Sereika agreed to serve if no one else could be found. With no objection to the slate, Spring will recommendation these to the Senate President with committee concurrence.
- **Systematic Reporting to SCITC:** We still need to discuss what kinds of systematic reports the SCITC would like to have from Pitt IT. Suggestions include: **Research computing; Help Desk Analytics; Network and Security Analytics; Planned Changes; ITAC Coordination**
- **Teams vs Zoom and e-mail:** The University Senate would like to move everything to Teams and would like all committees to use it. They're asking people to use Teams for communication purposes rather than using mass e-mails (because it's more organized and robust). Michael Spring fully supports this idea and asked for committee preferences. There were a number of comments made, mostly for the use of Teams, with some concern about additional overhead. Spring will work to make information available both ways for a while.

#### Pitt IT/CIO Report:

- EDUROAM @ UPMC
  - Adam Hobaugh: We've been working with UPMC to have EDUROAM throughout campus. It provides wireless connectivity everywhere and will be widely available within the next few weeks. This will help remedy faculty having login issues. This could also help with gaining access to Pitt resources through VPN. In fact, we are working with UPMC to deploy VPN client to Pitt/UPMC joint faculty which could resolve a lot of use cases. There aren't restrictions to the EDUROAM network but there are with UPMC's network, however, the VPN client can help bridge these issues and restrictions. This will be one direction, us going into UPMC's space, and will use Pitt's credentials. We've started this process with Presby and it's been going really well.
- UPMC/Pitt Collaborations
  - IBM Licensing
    - Adam Hobaugh: UPMC members fully funded by Pitt grants need help with their software licensing. We're trying to find a way to make software available to these people but need to figure out the correct verbiage for the contracts.
  - Zoom and Panopto
    - Adam Hobaugh: When working in UPMC space, Pitt faculty members don't have access to Zoom or Panopto. We're going to collaborate with UPMC to have these clients deployed to all of the appropriate faculty members on the UPMC side.
  - Federated Microsoft Services



- Michael Spring suggested summarizing Deloitte's report and comparing it to our accomplishments, goals, vision, etc. The report can be discussed at either the November or January meeting.

#### Old Business:

- Further comments on device recommendations
  - faculty/staff: <https://www.technology.pitt.edu/services/computer-purchasing-staff-faculty>
  - students: <https://www.technology.pitt.edu/services/computer-purchasing-students>
- Dashboard recommendations
  - <https://ithealth.pitt.edu/>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Draft minutes submitted for review by:  
Stacie Gabriel/Michael Spring  
October 2, 2020