

Senate Computing and Information Technology Committee
February 8, 2021 – 10:30 AM
Room 717 CL by Zoom

Attending: Michael Spring, Mark Henderson, Adam Hobaugh, Jay Graham, Ollie Green, Dwight Helfrich, Stacie Gabriel, Kimberly Barlow, Douglas Fischer, Ralph Roskies, Alexandros Labrinidis, Arif Abdullah Jamal, Marty Levine, Kenny Doty, Irene Frieze, Kimberly Phillips, Dmitriy Babichenko, Ilia Murtazashvili, Susan Sereika.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from the January 12, 2021 meeting were approved as mailed with no changes.

Chair's Report:

- Communications Received
 - Regarding cloud storage alternatives, Doug Fischer and Vince Arena have both shared some reactions. Doug Fischer thinks a wider comparison made available for storage may give people the motivation to migrate from Box to OneDrive. Adam Hobaugh thinks this is a good idea and appreciated the suggestion. Vince Arena has worked through a migration from box to one drive, as has Spring and they will share some reactions.
 - Regarding networking in UPMC facilities, David Salcido had shared some problems which were shared with various personnel at Pitt IT and UPMC. The resulting information has been shared with the help desk and appears to have improved the situation significantly
 - Pitt IT has requested liaison with ITAC and the subcommittees on Data Governance and Security. The ITAC committee is active, there will be a coordination of appointment so that the ITAC members will be on the same page as people on the SCITC committee. There will be two subcommittees (listed above) and the membership doesn't overlap with ITAC itself. We invite members to nominate themselves if they're interested in security or data governance. Mark Henderson observed that one of the biggest benefits of talking to Michael and Chris is that we formalize the appointment of faculty members to these subcommittees so that it transcends memory, and we have it baked into a process when we all are gone. ITAC looks at IT writ large at the University, it's so that we ensure alignment going forward. Subsequent to the meeting, spring agreed to serve on the data governance subcommittee and Doug Fischer agreed to serve on the security subcommittee.
- Spring urged the committee to review the Pitt IT Information made available to the committee and comment on it as appropriate. The links are shown below. Alex Labrinidis observed that the recommended devices for faculty and staff should include desktop models.
 - <https://ithealth.pitt.edu/>

- <https://www.technology.pitt.edu/cloud-migration-pitt>
- <https://www.technology.pitt.edu/services/computer-purchasing-staff-faculty>
- <https://www.technology.pitt.edu/services/computer-purchasing-students>

Pitt IT/CIO Report

- **Security Update (introduce new CISO - Ollie)**
 - Michael Spring: We'll give Ollie another month to settle before receiving any security updates. Penetration tests, incident reports, e-mail filtering, phishing scams, etc. would be great topics to discuss in the future.
- **Box Migration**
 - Adam Hobaugh: Based on all of the community feedback and the results of the Pitt IT pilot migration, we plan to extend the box contract to August 2022 to cause the least amount of disruption. This will then turn into a cost recovery service and we're currently determining what those costs will be per person. We have to get from our current level of storage (2.8 PB to 2.3 PB). While we continue to migrate people, you can expect lots of updates and communications. Please continue to give your feedback!
 - Alexandros Labrinidis: This will cause a lot less stress on faculty members and a cost model would be really useful as soon as possible.
 - Michael Spring: This is great news and gives people time to move. It will still be important that the matters of costs that may have to be incurred for sponsored research projects be examined to see who should cover them.
- **Timing on Policy Reviews for Networking and Access and Use**
 - Adam Hobaugh: On 2/1 the terms were sent to the operations council and we're hoping the week of 2/15 Chris Bonneau will review them. The week of 2/22 the charters will be sent to the Chancellor's cabinet to review and then the Chancellor following that. Moreover, this process will take roughly 4-5 weeks.
 - Michael Spring: Just as a reminder, these are separate from the ITAC subcommittees.
- **Metamesh**
 - Jay Graham: Metamesh is a wireless internet service provider, we've partnered with them and Kinber to gain service coverage. The initial communities for the pilot were New Kensington, Coraopolis, and Homewood (Jay showed pictures in a slideshow of where the towers are located). Final approval from the water authority is in the works and then we're ready to mount the necessary antennas for Coraopolis. New Kensington has secured a tower climber and we're in a process of scheduling a date with the radio stations to install the climber. We're working with Duquesne Light to provide the power for the Homewood antennas. Metamesh recently adjusted the antennas on top of the Cathedral of Learning and about 500-600mb per second have been recorded (we believe we can gain even more). Pitt IT coordinated the installation of the antennas on the Cathedral of Learning and because of this, we have 360 degree coverage.

- Ralph Roskies: Given the communities you chose, what does 500-600mb look like? Jay Graham explained Verizon doesn't offer any introductory plans and while Comcast does, Metamesh is free for those in need/a more economical option for meeting basic wireless needs.
- HCM
 - Dwight Helfrich: The HCM project was started 3 years ago and we're currently in the final phase. We went live on 1/4/2021 which brought us a new HR payroll system that's mobile and user friendly. This was to replace manual/paper processes and expand our capabilities. HR, benefits, time and labor, and payroll are all currently live. We're doing post go-live work which means we're wrapping up with Deloitte, we're looking into our first update with Oracle, we've begun working on our open enrollments period, and we're still working on post go live progress reports. Most of our questions have been around timecards and we've set up Zoom war rooms to answer these questions. Things are going well so far!

Old Business

- Research Data Management – we have not yet received an update.
- Privacy Issues related to China and distance learning: Ilia Murtazashvili asked if there's anything we can do to give faculty resources for concerned students, that would be really helpful. This would be especially helpful when it comes to censorship issues for international students (example; China). Michael Spring believes this would be something great for one of the upcoming subcommittees to undertake and Ilia offered to assist with this.

New Business

Spring Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday 3/9/2021, 1:00 pm
- Monday, 4/12/2021, 10:30 am

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

Draft minutes submitted for review by:

Stacie Gabriel

February 10, 2021