

Senate Computing Usage Committee - April 25, 2014

Members in attendance (???):

Alexandros Labrinidis [\[AL\]](#),

Jinx Walton [\[JW\]](#),

Alex Jones [\[AJ\]](#),

John LaDue [\[JL\]](#),

Kenny Dotty [\[KD\]](#),

Vincent Arena [\[VA\]](#),

Susan Sereika [\[SS\]](#),

Fran Yarger [\[FY\]](#),

Arif Jamal [\[AAJ\]](#),

Michael Lipschultz [\[ML\]](#),

Luis Vargas [\[LV\]](#),

Irene Freize [\[IF\]](#),

Fran Yarger [\[FY\]](#),

Frank Beatrous [\[FB\]](#),

Excused: Joe Constantino [\[JC\]](#), Sam Tisherman [\[ST\]](#),

Meeting started at 10:05 am

(1) Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

Approved.

(2) Update from Registrar's Office regarding waitlist issues

See item (3)

Senate Computing Usage Committee - April 25, 2014

(3) CSSD Update - Jinx Walton

* Update from Registrar's Office:

Two peoplesoft changes that are direct results of focus groups with faculty.

(1) Will implement soon a change in administrative class search to use a default campus value (based on suggestion by [AL])

(2) Looking into waitlists, expect to have recommended change by end of summer, to be in place by Fall. Fairly confident they can do it.

[FB] really they need to make it opt-out

[JW] believe this would be implemented on a unit-by-unit basis (i.e., has to be opt-in)

[AL] made it clear to the meeting that some departments are struggling with current setup for waitlists, so they would be willing to accept a slightly more complicated policy, but understandably this should not be applied to all departments

[AJ] another suggestion at the meeting was to freeze a course enrollment after a course has filled up, so it is up to department to manage own waiting lists (and enforce them)

[AL] this happens early, at early registration, for Computer Science, but if we update course information manually then it is kept for the next iteration of the course, so something needs to change to make this only temporary, once a course fills up.

[AL] the reason we have been pushing for this is that Computer Science has seen a doubling of the major in the last 5 years.

* Electronic Lab Notebooks -- most departments were using CERF, now out of business. CSSD did survey to gather requirements and needs, plan to have a focus group, and choose an enterprise-level solution.

Senate Computing Usage Committee - April 25, 2014

* My Pitt EMail - presentation by Dan Manicucci [DM].

Time for incremental changes and time for bigger changes. Seems we are in the latter, and in need for an overhaul.

CSSD had a number of open forums and surveys, from faculty, staff, and students.

Feedback

- people don't like current webmail
 - people want higher quotas (fixed, with self-service)
 - exchange users had fewest complaints
 - most students use web interface
 - most faculty and staff use a desktop client

 - use of cloud for student email is not a concern
 - users would rather move to Exchange or Gmail
 - 70% of IMAP users did not know they could get exchange
 - Exchange users do not want to move to Gmail

 - one forward is enough, some said two would be nice
 - students want to keep their e-mail address after they graduate
 - postini no longer as effective as it used to be
 - postini is going away in the near future -- looking at replacement

 - looked at twelve other schools of similar size and ranking:
 - 8 have moved students to cloud (7 using Gmail)
 - 1 have moved faculty and staff to cloud
 - only one allows more than one forward
- [FB] what is the cloud option?
[DM] Cloud option would mean partnering with either Microsoft and Google.

Senate Computing Usage Committee - April 25, 2014

[KD] if microsoft is picked, would that mean easier integration with existing Exchange server?

[DM] yes

- What we learned about Google

- users at Pitt already using Google (based on analysis of forwarding)
- to meet General Counsel requirements, we would have to pay for a higher tier of service for GMail (i.e., no longer free)
- until Microsoft began offering MS Office 365 for students, GMail was the only option

- What we learned about Microsoft

- MS Office products are useful job skills to have
- Much easier to integrate (if we have a cloud and a non-cloud option)
- Offers better integration with current services

- Where we are headed

- Move the University towards a single e-mail platform based on Exchange
- Upgrade Enterprise Exchange to 2013
- Move students to Exchange Online with 50GB quotas
- Make forwarding work for any Pitt e-mail address
- Reduce the number of forwards from five down to one
- Position ourselves to be able to offer graduating students e-mail for life (old email messages and email address)
- Move spam and virus filtering to Exchange online protection

[VA] would there be a similar issue for faculty and staff (in terms of maintaining email addresses for life?)

[JW] HR asks that when staff leave their addresses are not kept, and are switched to a vacation message

[JW] for faculty we are exploring, based on question brought up in Faculty Assembly, about email addresses for faculty who are leaving

[DM] there are some issues: making sure account is only for email and does not give full access to other pitt services.

[KD] how would cases of student + staff member be handled in the future?

[JW] we would need to figure this out -- cannot handle this on a case by case basis

Senate Computing Usage Committee - April 25, 2014

[AL] this is a big change - we are eliminating the IMAP option

[DM] this is slowly going away -- multi-year process, we will give Exchange by default to new users

[JW] we are going to allow exceptions

[AL] what are the current numbers?

[DM] about 6,000 accounts of faculty and staff that are IMAP only

[DM] about $\frac{2}{3}$ are using Exchange

[JW] there are a lot of these accounts that are forwarding to UPMC accounts

[JW] initially there was cost with Exchange, so the default became IMAP initially

Next steps:

- communicating changes
- reducing the number of forwards
- moving students from IMAP to Exchange online
- moving users from IMAP to Exchange, that want to move now

[AL] have reservations, since a lot of users on campus are currently using GMail products and they will just keep forwarding their email to GMail after moved to Exchange Online

[AJ] what is the complexity issue for having multiple forwards?

[DM] it is technology limitation -- the product out of the box supports only one forward

[VA] what is the time-table for moving to Exchange 2013?

[DM] end of June

[AL] what is the time-line for everything else?

[DM] would like to be complete by time new students start in the Fall.

Senate Computing Usage Committee - April 25, 2014

[AL] I have reservations with this, but do not have the overall picture/data.

[AJ] how would the post-postini solution be handled? separate web interface vs integrated with mailbox?

[DM] couple of options -- web portal quarantine option most probable.

There is an option to make it so that it is moved to own mail client.

(4) Any other business

Alexandros Labrinidis will be stepping down as Chair of the committee (after four years) since his second term as elected member expires this year. He will continue maintaining the mailing list for the committee and participate next year as a pro-tem member.

Meeting ended at 11:11 am

Scribe: Alexandros Labrinidis

Next meeting: TBD; We will reconvene in September.