

Senate Computing and Information Technology Committee

November 22, 2019 -- 10:00AM

Room 717 CL

Attending: Dimitriy Babichenko, Kenny Doty, Gosia Fort, Michelle Fullem, Daniel Gruen, Mark Henderson, Adam Hobaugh, Arif Jamal, Jong Jeong, Jason Killmeyer, Marty Levine, Sami Mian, Ralph Roskies, Michael Spring

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from October 25, 2019 meeting were approved as mailed.

New Business:

- Research Computing Report (December meeting)

Chair's Matters (Michael Spring)

- Spring reported that the Faculty assembly had voted to return the Policy on Electronic Information Technology Accessibility to the originating committee to obtain more data on how implementation of the policy would be paid for.
- Spring indicated that it had come to his attention that some departments had voted, or otherwise decided, to give up university phones for budgetary reasons. He indicated that it would seem it might be possible to grant faculty access to university phone numbers that could be directed to their personal cell phones at little or no cost. Henderson indicated that he was aware of the telecommunications issues and promised to take a look at the situation.
- Data Analytics are likely to have a significant impact in the years to come and it is important that the Senate have some role in oversight. Pending the presentation to Faculty Assembly on how it is evolving, Spring would like to make sure that there is some appropriate oversight by the Senate and SCITC is one possible venue.
- Azure and AWS support is being rolled out. Based on a note from Professor Roskies, it is not clear, despite our best efforts, that the information is widely enough disseminated that it is reaching all the faculty involved.
- Spring introduced Michelle Fullem and Jason Killmeyer who will be presenting today on the Pitt Worx project in the Office of Human Resources.
- The transition to the new LMS – Canvas – continues to progress. There is no news, which we take to be good news, but January will probably be a good time to look again at how things are going.
- Spring asked again for committee members to help with notes to be used in producing the minutes of the SCITC.

CIO Report (Mark Henderson, Adam Hobaugh, and Jay Graham)

- **Microsoft update:** products going out of support: Microsoft is beyond end of support for windows 7 and windows server 7 and 8 are at the end of support. No patches after January 1. Departments can purchase an upgrade at a very reasonable cost. Students get it for free. Faculty can purchase an update. After March 2020 these devices will not be allowed to connect to the Pitt network.

- **Virtual Labs:** CSSD is going to create virtual labs via Microsoft web services. The first target will be access intensive resources such as CAD software. The services will provide a variety of collaborative services. This will free up significant resources. The technology will allow the resources to be accessed via a web browser.
- **IT vision update:** To date CSSD has had 14 town halls with various stakeholders. Five more engagements have been scheduled. At the end of the town halls CSSD will begin to implement the target activities to advance the activities in the five key areas. Moving to bring more efficiency. The primary goal is to maintain operational excellence. Every effort will be made to maintain transparency. More efforts will be made to make projects and efforts clear. Effort will be made to be consistent with the plan for Pitt. The vision looks at five areas where things can be done – students faculty campus, community, and region. The areas in which work can be done include: Governance, simplification, effectiveness, efficiency, security. The overall IT governance structure will include all the stakeholders. The key committee will represent the broadest campus community. Spring asked how the Senate committee and would relate to the new governance structure.
- Spring asked about the name of CSSD. Henderson indicated that names were being reviewed.

Pitt Worx (Michelle Fullem and Jason Killmeyer)

- Michelle Fullem and Jason Killmeyer made a presentation on Pitt Worx, which is a new cloud based system for human resources. It is a very large system that impacts payroll, human resources, and financial services. The new system involves five systems: Talent Center, Payroll, Core HR, Benefits, and Time and Labor. Pitt Worx incorporates all of these. Talent Center went live a year ago. While it is focused on staff, it can also be used for faculty recruiting. HR is working with the Provost's office to involve units in recruiting faculty this way. The system involves both the main and the regional campuses.
- One of the goals of the system is to streamline the system and make it more transparent. One of the objectives is to make the system paperless – employment paper, supplemental paper, time cards, etc. It will allow departments to have direct access to the system. It will allow people to see where actions are in process. The most important thing is that there will be only one system. As the project moves forward, the staff who are involved with the current paper system will be providing feedback on where the problems are with the new system.
- Michelle presented a project timeline. By January 2020, all the basic modules will be ready for further implementation. Spring asked for clarification about the timeline for the various modules in terms of use by various departments. HR is beginning to work on change management. HR is identifying champions to help with the process of getting people involved. They are working to integrate Sales Force in working with the system.

Timeline.

 - Configuration complete by Jan 2020.
 - System integration training happening through the spring to summer.
 - True payroll parallel fall 2020.
 - Training for HR and FIS summer 2020.

- Gosia Fort asked about the process of moving forward and whether it would more than duplicate the existing system – would there be new features. It should be more than just moving into the cloud. Michelle answered that there would be new features, but that it was also important for people to be able to do the things they had done before.
- Mark Henderson suggested that there are a number of reasons why this project is important and he and CSSD are working closely with HR.
- Ken Doty asked about services being self-service. Will departments be able to generate their own inquiries? Jason indicated that they will.
- Spring indicated that training will be critical and suggested that HR might learn from the massive implementation of the purchasing system a few years back.

Discussion of Faculty Software Access (Sereika, Bickford, Horvath)

- Hobough presented a tabulation of software available to faculty under various restraints.(see attached) It details software available to faculty for personal use, software departments need to purchase, etc. He indicated that graduate students classed as teaching fellows are able to access software available to faculty. Whether faculty are allowed to put software free in the University on machines operated by departments is a matter of departmental policy and not constrained by CSSD policy.
- The committee reached no resolution on site licenses obtained outside CSSD?
- Spring indicated that he would inform the involved faculty of the resolution.

Old Business

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Draft minutes submitted for review by:

Michael Spring

December 9, 2019