

Senate Computing and Information Technology Committee

October 25, 2019 -- 10:00AM

Room 717 CL

Attending: Dimitriy Babichenko, Jay Graham, Danielle Gruen, Mark Henderson, Adam Hobaugh, Jong Jeong, Alex Labrinidis, Marty Levine, Sami Mian, Ralph Roskies, Susan Sereika, Michael Spring, Albert Tanjaya, Steve Wisniewski

Minutes: Minutes from September 26, 2019 meeting were approved as mailed.

New Business:

- Vice Chancellor David DeJong contacted Alex Labrinidis about new software projects in Human Resources. HR staff will be making a presentation on the Human Resources Oracle Cloud project at the November meeting.
- Professor Roskies has agreed to make a report on Research Computing at the December meeting

Chair's Matters (Michael Spring)

- Spring has reported to Senate President Bonneau that the committee has approved the Policy on Electronic Information Technology Accessibility. There were no requests for further discussion. Alex Labrinidis suggested that an annual report on the Accessibility Policy impact should be made to SCITC. Vice Chancellor Connelly agreed that this could be done. All votes cast were for accepting the policy. Voting for Acceptance were: Danielle Gruen, Susan Sereika, Mike Colaresi, Matthew Lavin, Arif Jamal, Fran Yarger, Jong Jeong, Alexandros Labrinidis, Sami Mian, and Michael Spring.
- Several issues have arisen related to faculty access to software. The issues all relate in one way or another to faculty having access to the software they need for teaching, but they include very different perspectives.
- Spring suggested that the SCITC was one appropriate place for the Senate to review Data Analytics efforts. Steve Wisniewski agreed that this could be considered and suggested that action on the matter be delayed until an upcoming presentation to Faculty Assembly.
- Spring asked committee members to provide help with the minutes by sharing their notes with him.
- Spring invited the members of the committee to introduce themselves.

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

- Vision Statement Update
 - CIO Mark Henderson provided an IT vision update. It is still an evolving document that has been discussed with Faculty assembly and the Dean's Council. It is an evolving vision for all IT at Pitt – not just CSSD.
 - The University spends \$132 million annually on IT. (It may be more if all spending from all sources are considered.) Forty six percent are on personnel;

54% on goods and services. Forty one percent are within CSSD, 59% are spread across campus.

- Moving to bring more efficiency. The primary goal is to maintain operational excellence. In addition, every effort will be made to maintain transparency. More efforts will be made to make projects and efforts clear. Efforts 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.
- Looking at new services for students. Looking to provide a better and more well known set of services to faculty. Looking to make the campus digital in significant ways. Looking to make the wireless service pervasive across Oakland. Looking to expand resources to the Pitt community centers. Going to provide internships for local students. Will work with the mayor to extend service in the city.
- The first area of governance will relate to data. Will focus on recommendations from the Deloitte report to make governance more responsive. Will look to coordinate services to increase efficiency. Security will be a key priority and the plan is to establish an external committee to oversee it security. That advisory board will report to an internal governance committee.
- Big swing items will include things like reducing cost and making education more cost effective. The Plan is to hold town halls, ask for input from the Chancellor's cabinet, work with faculty assembly, work with the dean's council. Ken Doty asked about staff. Mark made clear that there were a number of things that would be done to involve staff and work with them.
- Alex asked that there be an effort to make sure people get the help they need. The goal should be to make things more efficient. Mark indicated that there were a number of ways that the system could be made more efficient.
- Azure and AWS update
 - These services are available now to Pitt. There is a webpage that is up so that you can make use of this. Alex asked what is going to happen to people that already have projects with these services. The services make now be better for faculty. They will not need to pay on their own. This will have a significant impact on many faculty. Spring asked Marty to make sure this new set of services are communicated to faculty.
- Microsoft update
 - Several products are going out of support. Microsoft is nearing end of support for windows 7 and windows server 7 and and 8. Old windows 7 machines will become security targets. No patches after January 1. Technical support will no longer be available. CSSD is working to get people to windows 10. As we find old devices, we will move forward with moving them. Departments that are running under departmental licenses will be covered. People with personal devices, there will be a 10 dollar cost. People who need help can put in a ticket.
- ResNet update:

- Over the summer, CSSD began working with Apogee to provide wireless services in the residences. Students were experiencing dead areas and weak service. On average students are registering seven devices. There are 25000 devices connected to the wireless network.

New Business

- Discussion of Faculty Access to Software for Teaching (Sereika, Bickford, Horvath)
Three issues related to faculty access to software for teaching and research have arisen. First, what software can be used on faculty computers in offices? What can be used at home and what can be used in the office? Nursing faculty have been told that all software on faculty desktops need to have departmental licenses. Some software -- academic software for faculty, e.g., Stat packages – are available for faculty use but do not require departmental licenses. Second, some software that is accessible to faculty for use in teaching, e.g. Adobe Creative Cloud, is not accessible to teaching fellows who are engaged in teaching. Third, what should faculty do when software made available through a site license is terminated? The specifics of these three issues are detailed below.
 - Sereika: I understand as a teaching faculty member I have access to the Academic Courseware for Faculty. However, I am hearing that this software cannot be used on my office desktop computer but only for personal use on my home computer. Only software where a license has been purchased (say from SLS) should be used on my office computer. Does this sound right to you?
 - Departments are supposed to purchase software installed on departmental computers. This mechanism is what facilitates cost recovery of the University's software agreements since there is no central funding source. How can departmental and personal software be combined?
 - Bickford: I think our graduate students on academic appointments (TA/TF/GSAs) probably should have faculty software access, since in that role they have the same needs as faculty. English graduate students design and teach standalone classes, grade, etc. in the same way anyone else would. I was also able to confirm that part-time faculty teaching one course do have access to the Adobe suite.
 - Adobe Creative Cloud is not (and has not been) available to students free of charge. It is available to faculty free of charge. Software availability via software.pitt.edu is regulated by dynamic security groups. These security groups are populated based on a person's official classification. The "instructors of record" referenced are officially classified as student (30) and student employee (12), which, as an example, is identical to our student lab employees. One solution is to have each department officially classify the "instructors of record" as teaching in PeopleSoft. This would automatically provision access to the Adobe Creative Cloud suite and include them in the Adobe licensing count. Can we manage to have

individuals classified such that people who teach have access to the needed software?

- Horvath: I saw with great disappointment the news that the university will discontinue its subscription and support for Mendeley (see HLSL newsletter below).
 - Mendeley software subscription was not a CSSD purchase. Should SCITC have known about it?
- After a discussion of the details of these issues, it was agreed that CSSD should prepare a brief report that endeavors to show how software related to faculty work is categorized. Based on this analysis, the committee can look to make particular recommendations for changes to support faculty efforts.

Old Business for Future Meetings.

- Foreign Student Access to Research Computing Resources(Roskies)
- Mobile Application deployment (Dmitriy Babichenko)
- Game hosting/publishing platform(Dmitriy Babichenko)
- Status of the transition to the new LMS – Canvas

Meeting adjourned 11:30 am.

Draft minutes submitted for review by:

Michael Spring

November 7, 2019