

SCUC -- February 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Members attendance: Vincent C. Arena, Frank H. Beatrous, Michael Bolam, Joseph Costantino, P. J. Dillon, James Doty, Irene Frieze, Alexandros Labrinidis, Susan Sereika, Fran Yarger, Jinx Walton.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION TO BE TAKEN
Call to order	Alex called the meeting to order at 10:05am	
Brief Introductions		
CSSD Report by Jinx	<p><u>Phishing Scams:</u> Jinx reported that it seems phishing attacks are on the rise and are getting more sophisticated. About 10 people had their machines compromised in the last month. A popular style of attack masquerades as a message from the system administrators reporting that the user's mailbox is over quota. As a general rule, users are urged to keep the operating systems of their computers up to date and to never supply passwords to a web page that they clicked from within an email message. Alex pointed out that social networking applications (e.g., facebook) are now being targeted for phishing attacks and these are harder because they seem to be originating from friends.</p> <p><u>ENS:</u> The emergency notification system was successfully utilized during the historic snowstorm earlier in the month to notify participants of the University's closing. It seems that using the ENS to warn subscribers about schedule disruptions due to inclement weather is an important and welcomed use.</p> <p><u>Computing Labs:</u> Jinx provided statistics about computing lab usage throughout campus. There are 10 laboratories across campus (that are open to the public), in addition to department/school specific labs (which they typically provide access to specialty software). Despite deploying the wireless network across campus and adding network ports in the residence halls, computing labs are still heavily used. Lab usage is 100% at peak times and about 60% on average at other times. Last month there were 170,000 logins recorded.</p> <p>Remote printing was deployed to eliminate lab use for just printing (2.6 million pages were printed in January). Email kiosks (112) were deployed to eliminate lab use for just checking email; their use is decreasing (smart-phones and laptops are the possible reasons for this decrease).</p> <p>The top application in the computer laboratories is word processing.</p>	<p>[Jinx] Make sure pitt web site literature about phishing attacks is up to date.</p> <p>[Alex/Fran] Report to faculty assembly that phishing attacks are on the rise.</p>

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Experience with new OMET Evaluation of Teaching	<p>The evaluation of teaching results from the Fall term have not been distributed yet. There was a learning curve and some glitches with the new system. [Update: fall term evaluation of teaching reports were distributed to faculty on Feb 21st.]</p> <p>Two issues were brought by Irene regarding OMET scanning of tests, on whether the new system can handle more than 50 questions in a single sheet and whether it can support anonymous questionnaires.</p>	Check with OMET on capabilities of new system.
Campus-wide mailing lists	<p>Jinx reported that looking at other universities, there is a spectrum of policies regarding campus-wide mailing lists. In most cases a mailing list exists, but posting on it requires prior approval (which can be extremely restrictive in some cases). In the University of Pittsburgh, campus-wide emails require approval from the Provost. An example of this is the university senate newsletter. Students are trying to do a similar mailing list for GPSA, but it is not easy to setup.</p> <p>It seems there is no consensus on whether to make the process of sending mass emails easier, because that would add to the (already high) volume of emails people are getting.</p> <p>Alex made the suggestion to consider email delivery as an alternative of mass paper-based mailings, which would introduce cost savings and be environmentally friendly.</p>	Discuss at next meeting
Other issues	Vincent reported that many software purchases still require yearly licenses that are aligned with the University's fiscal year (July 1 st – June 31 st). This is a problem when someone buys a piece of software on June and then in July they have to pay for a full year again. This is especially the case for statistical packages. The possibility of prorating the first year has been proposed.	[Jinx] check on feasibility
Adjournment		Next meeting on Friday, Apr 9 th at 10am.