Information Technology Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (Online)

In Attendance: M. Madison, A. Delitto, S. Gabriel, J. Dahm, L. Gift, S. Brown, D. DeJong, A. Hobaugh, J. Baldwin, A. Labrinidis, O. Green, C. Burton, C. Hoyt, D. Helfrich, R. Gregersen, M. Henderson (Chair), J. Silverstein, C. Wertz, S. Sereika, M. Colaresi, P. Kroboth, R. Rutenbar, K. Doty, B. Childers, B. Hart

Absent: H. Sastry, A. Wildermuth, K. Bonner, V. Chuah, J. Mitrzyk, P. Rikstad, S. Wisniewski, T. Hitter, A. Buxbaum

Meeting called to order online at 1:00 p.m.

Henderson thanked the members and subcommittee chairs for their participation. Minutes of the May 2021 meeting approved without change.

➢ Subcommittee Reports:
  • Data Governance – Madison reported that the DGS has been active with three monthly meetings since its formation, two since the last ITAC meeting. Subcommittee is continuing to work to develop a statement of University values and related principles to guide use of administrative data. Research data will be considered in the future. Madison thanked Burton for his role as Pitt IT Liaison and Hart for providing staff support. Madison noted that he and Gift met in person as subcommittee chairs to introduce themselves and discuss respective subcommittee assignments.
  • Information Security – Gift echoed Madison's comments on their in-person meeting, noting the pleasure of being able to meet in person following tighter pandemic restrictions. ISS has also met twice since the last ITAC meeting focusing initially on Green's vision as Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) since assuming his role. ISS also heard from Assistant Professor Mai Adelekheme on the issues of general information security and security relating to cloud storage. ISS will next consider a draft incident response plan. Gift underscored the need for such a plan. Additional goals include building on discussion of cloud storage security, along with current and potential University policies relating to information security.

➢ Report From University IT Policy Committees - Hart
  • Network Policy – this policy provides the authority to operate the University's network. The current version includes detailed technical language that properly belongs in a network standards document. The committee will focus on eliminating unnecessary technical language and preparing a new draft to bring the policy into proper focus.
  • Computer Access and Use Policy – this policy dates back to the mainframe computer days and needs to be refocused on use of University computing resources. The committee is beginning to review the scope of this policy. Feedback to prepare a new version is being gathered from members.

➢ Research Activities Update - Rutenbar
  • Shawn Brown introduced as new Vice Chancellor for Research Computing reporting jointly to Rutenbar and Henderson. Also serving as Director, Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (CMU). Internal research administration transition begun to fill void left by Ralph Roskies,

former VC of Research Computing and Director of the Center for Research Computing (CRC) has now been completed. In addition to Brown, Kim Wong of the Department of Chemistry and Adam Hobaugh, Pitt IT Deputy CIO are serving as co-directors of the CRC. Henderson's team (Pitt IT) and the Office of Research are closely collaborating on a variety of projects:

- Brown will recruit faculty to serve as associate directors and make resources more relevant and ensure that Pitt faculty have top-notch research computing facilities.
- Research Landing Page (web portal). Working in conjunction with the Health Sciences and University Library System, Rutenbar's and Henderson's teams are building a research landing page to provide access to all advanced research computing offerings available for research. This will solve the problem of researchers "knowing the right people" to gain access to computing, storage, and other resources at Pitt or even going to other universities for access to services. Rutenbar observed that people are spending money to buy what Pitt IT already has in place. Giant data sets are housed in Germany because people assume the datasets cannot be housed here. The effort now is to curate the site and make it as user-friendly as possible.

➢ Security Update – Green

- Print spooler issues – patches are being applied to prevent attacks on print spoolers due to a recently-discovered vulnerability.
- Phishing Campaigns – completed a new campaign designed to test user awareness of potential phishing schemes. Point is to determine how many University users click on a link in the mock phishing email sent out by Pitt IT. A number of users reported the email to Ollie's team. Green underscored the critical importance of using caution when opening links or email attachments.
- Security is piloting security awareness training with Pitt IT staff. The aim is to conduct training throughout the University, customized for the Pitt environment.

➢ Open Discussion on Issues of Importance to ITAC Members:
- Appreciation for efforts of Pitt IT employees during COVID pandemic.
- How IT is planning for the University's future.
- Interest in coordinating use of applications for electronic health records across health sciences schools.
- Incentives to use enterprise applications versus implementing school or department applications.
- Integration of open source tools with Pitt resources, focusing on tight integration and best practices.
- More information on scope of Health Sciences/Deputy CIO position.
- Excitement about planning for the future instead of just "fighting fires."
- Bring cloud services opportunities to the forefront instead of buying equipment with grant funds.

➢ **Adjournment -** 2:00 p.m.