Group: Information Technology Council 2021-2022

Subject: Minutes for the ITC Monthly Meeting

Date: Monday, March 21st, 2022, 9:00-10:00am

Location: Zoom

Recorder: Richard Sprecker

Attendees: Andy Fagg (Computer Science), Aaron Biggs (Provost Office), Nick Key (IT), Ross Mehl (Extended Campus), Richard Sprecker (Drama), Eric Zemke (Libraries), David Horton (IT), Rin Ferraro (Graduate Student Senate), Aaron Baillio (IT Security), David Ebert (VPR), Edward Reali (SGA), Jenel Cavazos (Psychology), Konstantinos Karathanasis (Music), Char Eby (SBSC), David Parsons (Meteorology)

Minutes were discussed, no questions were given.

Andrew Fagg started a discussion about having faculty in to discuss ideas on Faculty computing Usage. Dave Parsons shared a presentation on how the research group works and some about atmospheric science.

- The college has been growing like mad, increasing in size on campus
- The amount of computing that is done at the operational centers is similar to simulations of the human brain
- Selected research examples were presented
  - Sam Lilo – PhD – Utilized the NCAR-MPAS global modeling system – under an NSF grant, free data storage was used along with using the NCAR Cheyenne system (5+ petaflops; 100K processors; 300TB data set)
  - Matheus Gomes – Used the CM1 cloud model and the NCAR Cheyenne system - under an NSF grant, free data storage was used along with using the NCAR Cheyenne system
  - Honors College students and collaboration with ECMWF (European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts, one of the largest meteorological data archives in the world)
  - Chris Rattray – PhD – Using AI deep learning techniques, using model initial conditions and forecasts from the ECMWF archive, would likely switch to OSCER after taking AI course – OSCER is faster than a PC and we do not need a large system like Cheyenne
- Summary thoughts
  - The field requires some of the worlds most advanced computing systems
  - Computational needs vary greatly with the problem selected
  - Need IT personnel who have Atmospheric Sciences training (MS and PhD level)
  - Data transfers of multiple TBs/day

- Concerns that the faculty do not appreciate the security needs that OU IT requires, and that OU IT might not understand the variation in the AS processing and storage needs when formulating policies regarding computers and purchasing guidelines. Heavy delays in computer purchasing have been problematic but seem to be fixed.

Andrew Fagg opened the discussion to questions

    Discussion of the use of open-source software tools

Andrew Fagg started a discussion with Nick about multi-factor authentication challenges.
- A ticket was submitted but the person involved did not see the response to the ticket. Nicholas Key discussed the resolution of the ticket and additional MFA options that are available for people to use. There was discussion about calling into the help center to gain access, and what security options are available to verify a user's identity and provide changes for MFA. Generally the process is not made difficult unless the call seems very fishy or out of the ordinary.
- David Horton asked how often incidents like this occur, and Nicholas Key stated that the number was around half a dozen. Discussion was had about how often such requests were made compared to the number of tickets that are filed.
- David Horton mentioned that there was an effort to change the MFA push system from Duo to Ping.

Andrew Fagg started a discussion about making sure the new policies and other information about potential issues is properly distributed to faculty.
- Nicholas Key stated that there is work in this are, with the intent about not overwhelming recipients with a large amount of information. By April, a message will be sent out about this. The effort is to provide updated information about the policy without getting bogged down in the large amount of information on the subject. The effort is to show recipients the updates in the policy information in such a way that they do not pass over it.
- Discussed frequency of these updates. General thought is to release new information quarterly
- Aaron Baillilo discussed having a web page set up to show outages and other security-related information. Nicholas Key discussed efforts in that area and current ideas to distribute updates and policy information with that idea in mind. Nicholas stated that if faculty or departments would like IT to come to a meeting and discuss the changes and the thoughts behind them, they would be happy to do this.
- Eric Zemke mentioned Drive Encryption on the HR checklist for employees who work from home. Nicholas Key said that there is discussion about this area and a policy/procedure will be forthcoming

Discussion was had about recent emergency notifications, particularly a day where severe weather was expected and a test was done on the notification system.

Updates on Security
- Andrew Fagg mentioned a major email hack at Brown, and opened a discussion about network security. Aaron Baillio discussed more details about what happened with this incident, stating that 500,000 email addresses were obtained in this instance.
- Nicholas Key discussed mass mailing services such as Mail Chimp, talking about how mass messages can be properly distributed, particularly to external addresses.
- Aaron Baillio discussed whether or not the system attacks were from Russia. Aaron also discussed a specific security attack, and that ProofPoint was able to block it and supply the affected email addresses. Our security prevention measures have been holding up

Andrew Fagg mentioned that there are new policies under discussion. Aaron Baillio mentioned that these new policies have been sent to the President's office for discussion and approval. Remote Access Standard is among these policies that is currently open for discussion. Aaron updated the committee about the Email usage policy.

Andrew Fagg discussed that the committee has one meeting remaining in the semester, and discussed the need to potentially bring in people to discuss upcoming changes to the needs and policies currently in use.
- Aaron Baillio discussed people in specific departments related to these discussions. David Horton was asked about the ITGOV committee, and Nicholas Key discussed these policy approaches. Nicholas shared a document outlining the tiers within the Board of Regents and Sub-Committees, specifically noting the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure committee. The purpose of these committees is to better accomplish what we want to at the system level.
- Governance Committees
  - Teaching & Learning: Jenel Cavazos and Aaron Biggs are members
  - Healthcare
  - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure
  - Research
  - Faculty senate is appointing members to Teaching & Learning and Research

Andrew Fagg asked the committee to put forth discussion points for our next meeting, and what items need to be considered for next year.
- Nicholas Key discussed the semiconductor shortage and how it will impact technology in our classrooms
- Char Eby mentioned having both Oracle and PeopleSoft operational at the same time, and how not being able to do this is causing access problems. The pop-up page that occurs with Zoom was also discussed as an issue.
- Andrew Fagg asked committee members to email him with other points that need to be considered.

10am: Meeting End