



Minutes from I.T. Council meeting 1/29/18

Travis Conference Room, Bizzell Memorial Library

Attendees

Patrick Livingood, Co-Chair – Anthropology
Carl Grant, Co-Chair – OU Libraries
Aaron Biggs – Provost Office
Eddie Huebsch - IT
Chris Cook – CAPS
Andrew Fagg – Computer Science

Carol Silva – Political Science
J. Quyan Wickham - VPR
Al Schwarzkopf – Price College of Business
Jeff Boles - University OUTREACH
Sunny Lee - Communication
Mark Laufersweiler – OU Libraries

Meeting called to order by Patrick Livingood at 10:30

No comments on minutes, approved.

Eddie Huebsch Report on Network Speeds

- Presentation prompted by a complaint from faculty
- This is most active network upgrade year, perhaps ever
- A number of network improvement projects currently happening and being planned
- Includes library - has been a sore spots with students
- Project benefits from some fiber that was already laid, but never had funding to hook it up
- Next big building - Physical Sciences
- Also plans and money for: Copelin Hall, Gaylord, Monet, Sarkeys, Chemistry, Dale Hall Tower, Engineering Lab, Whitehand
- Includes wireless and wired improvements
- IT well aware pf problem areas
- Original complaint was about Sarkeys
 - A bunch of big users in Sarkeys, upgrading main building
- Building out main campus core to be able to run 10 G lines to all buildings eventually

Question: What happened to adoption of WPA2?

- Eddie: Need to investigate

Question: Any issues with annual password resets?

- Eddie: Call center has been relatively quiet

Question: A faculty member is having problem with Display Name. The problem is that they have a Preferred last name and have been getting run between HR and IT.

- Preferred last name has been a major challenge
- This is on HR's end because IT just read's HR's system

- Problem is legal issues with last name

Eddie Huebsch Report on Adobe Cloud

- Part time employees are now eligible. Does not include graduate assistants
- For lab computers, have a separate pool of licenses are purchased for those machines
- Question: What to do about adjuncts? Currently requires a lot of support work.
- AI: Can HR do zero-dollar employee licenses?
 - Eddie: But then cost of all licenses go up
 - Not easy to mess with bulk licenses

Report: Mark Laufersweiler – OU Library Research Data Specialist

- Presenting on result of Data and Computing Survey
 - OU had not done a data and computing survey before
 - Came up with a strategy
 - Involved creation of advisory group
 - Sent out survey in spring
 - Project sponsored by VPR, CIO, Library's Dean Luce
- About 700 total responses
 - About half of the responses are from faculty (343), 25% from grad students
 - Got responses from every college
- Who are researchers sharing data with?
 - Many share inside the community, and some with collaborators outside OU
 - Not as much interest in sharing with public
 - Lots of people are not sharing because there is no requirement
 - Or because data is proprietary or confidential
- Backups?
 - Most respondents have good backup practices
 - But 25-50 respondents are not backing up
- What resources are unavailable or needs to be improved?
 - Computing: Not enough nodes in high computing center, memory is also short
 - Current data storage: more storage is needed
 - Software: Some responses were requests for software that OU has a license, like SPSS
 - Some may not know they need access to software. Or license too restrictive
- AI: We don't have a good onboarding document. Nothing helps outline what resources are available
 - Mark: Also many not need to know how to use the software. Library has tried to provide consulting services and workshops
 - Challenge at University is that you always have a new group of people, student turnover
- Eddie Comment: We are seeking funds to expand high computing storage
- Question: How does OU handle backups?
 - Eddie: Backups are physically separate. Backups of business data mostly right now. Separation is to protect from ransomware
- Visualization Resources?

- Respondents say they want help with how to use.
 - How do I learn what is available?
- OU is one of few R1s without Department of Stats or Center for stats
- Shared Services?
 - Lots of people report the services excellent or good. But even more are saying they have never used or not aware
 - Some consulting services available, but not being used or not aware
- Size of Data Sets?
 - Majority in .5-5 TB
- Most frequent computing needs?
 - working with data, need access
- Common concerns:
 - 1.Issues with communication about what is available. Resources scattered across areas and pages
 - 2.Researchers with small data sense disinterest
 - 3.Concern about security of research data if not locally held
 - 4.Faculty research needs ignored
 - 5.Need more IT resources
- Future planning
 - Planning for 3 focus groups for follow-up
 - Would like to repeat survey every 2-3 years
- Outcomes:
 - Need a research data portal
 - Library trying to serve as focus point. A Data Consortium with open office hours. Include informatics, data management, GIS
- Carl: Hope is that we can make progress on any of those points. Don't want to redo survey and the results say we are not making progress
 - Actively working on action plan
- Al: For researchers with <5TB of data, perhaps they should rely on local storage rather than expensive cloud computing
 - Carl: University owns the data. We need it on our systems
 - Local storage only is inconsistent with goals of University
 - Have to be able to support ongoing research to that data
 - Concerns about faculty data ownership
- Carol: With surveys it can be hard to show progress over different surveys. Might be best to see if you can see if you can see who answered last survey. Because lots of new people will otherwise overwhelm results
- Carol: CAS no longer has any computer labs. No longer have licenses to put SPSS on student computer. Creating a problem with teaching models.
 - Currently grad & undergrad students don't have access to SPSS on their machines or in labs
- Virtualization
 - Eddie: Software2 will virtualize software. Testing it now.
 - Might be solution for lack of computer labs and lack of student licenses for software

- Andrew: What is the cost model for these Computing Services?
 - Mark: I argue this should be thought of like a utility. Needs to be there, lights on
 - Wants to fight to make this not to be exclusionary pay to play