

Information Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2023, 1:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

Attending: M. Madison, J. Baldwin, M. Henderson, C. Hoyt, P. Cunningham, S. Sereika, Z. Xia, J. Dahm, R. Gregerson, L. Ferdinand, B. Childers, A. Buxbaum, M. Colaresi, T. Delitto, V. Kinloch, C. Panzella, L. Gift, S. Brandon, A. Seybert, U. Ndoh, H. Sastry, R. Rutenbar, M. Becich, K. Doty, M. Colaresi, K. Bonner, S. Mitrzyk, C. Spino, K. Pittman, D. Helfrich, C. Burton, O. Green, K. Wong, A. Hobaugh, M. Fullem, T. Graham, B. Hart

Absent: D. DeJong, S. Mitrzyk, B. Childers, S. Wisniewski, V. Chuah,

Meeting called to order online at 1:00 p.m. Minutes of the October 13, 2022 meeting approved without change.

- Introductions: Henderson welcomed and introduced new member Zongqi Xia, of the faculty of the Department of Neurology, who has replaced Alex Labrinidis as a University Senate appointee.
- Subcommittee Reports:
 - Budget Subcommittee: Cunningham reported that the Budget Subcommittee will resume meetings soon and has formed three working groups to examine specific issues relating to software purchases, cloud services utilization, and roles for University administrators accessing financial data in University databases.
 - Data Governance: The Subcommittee has not met pending the results of socializing its recommendations, endorsed by ITAC at the October 2022 meeting, with the University community. The Subcommittee will consider its work focus moving forward.
 - Student Subcommittee: Panzella reported that the Subcommittee has begun meeting, with considerable student interest and enthusiasm in discussing the various IT services Pitt and Pitt IT provide for students. The first meeting included a review of the Subcommittee's charter and an introductory meeting about various topics of interest. Meeting will be held monthly and the plan is to have a presentation on the Student Ambassador program.
 - Information Security Subcommittee: Gift reported that the current focus is on the Subcommittee's charge to report on compliance and concerns in University units storing and using high-value data. The group is currently preparing a spreadsheet showing these units along with policy and regulatory controls covering the data they store and manage. The plan is to develop a report for the ITAC to be given at each quarterly meeting. The report will cover a segment of those units. Gift noted that a representative from the University Internal Audit Department serves on the ISS and the group will be working with such units as Internal Audit and Risk Management on this project.

- Report From University IT Policy Committees
 - Network Policy – Draft policy is currently in the public comment period, to be reviewed by the Faculty Assembly in February.
 - Computer Access and Use Policy – Draft policy submitted for consideration by the ITAC in advance. Several minor revisions were suggested and noted. Ferdinand raised several questions involving the scope of the policy. Action on endorsing the draft policy tabled until the May meeting pending potential revisions.
- Chairperson's Report
 - ERP Assessment Update – Helfrich provided an overview of the assessment process to consider replacing the University's Enterprise Resource Planning system, which currently consists of a number of Oracle-based products including the student system (PeopleSoft), Oracle eBusiness Suite, and more. An RFP has been issued for replacement products, to which three vendors responded in May 2022. The team, consisting of stakeholders from across the University, has heard over 250 hours of vendor presentations over more than 50 days, participated in demonstrations, and reviewed the RFP results. Work is continuing, with plans to recommend a solution later in the year.
 - Pitt IT Transformation – Henderson reported that Pitt IT as an organization is looking at who and what we are, with continual transformation to meet the needs and exceed expectation of the University community. The organization is far more than a service provider. Pitt IT is focused on serving the needs of the University community, engaging with schools and departments. Significant activity is taking place with the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Research as well as the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Matching the needs of schools and units with existing solutions, emerging technologies, and best practices is a major focus of our effort. The primary goal of Pitt IT is to be a value center rather than being seen as just a cost center under the new budget model, a partner in Pitt education and research priorities.
 - Health Sciences/Medicine Moon Shot – Henderson reported on a forthcoming initiative to strengthen support for medical research computing through a partnership with the Schools of the Health Sciences, Pitt IT, Dell, and others. This initiative will address needs for research data storage and computing capacity among other priorities. Additional information will be reported in future meetings.
- Adjourned – 2:00 p.m.