In Attendance: P. Rikstad, A. Labrinidis, M. Colaresi, M. Henderson (Chair), H. Sastri, A. Hobaugh,
J Garmon, R. Gregerson, J. Baldwin, K. Bonner, T. Delitto, C. Hoyt, D. DeJong, A. Buxbaum, V. Chuah,
P. Kroboth, S. Mitrzyk, C. Burton, B. Childers, C. Wertz, K. Doty, M. Becich, R. Rutenbar, J. Silverstein, A.
Wildermuth, S. Gabriel, B. Hart

Absent: J. Dahm, S. Sereika

*Advance reading material was distributed to Committee members on October 6. A copy is available on
the ITAC website: https://technology.pitt.edu/ITAC.*

Chairman Henderson welcomed the participants to the kickoff meeting of the Information Technology
Advisory Committee (ITAC). Following introductions, Henderson explained the purpose of the
Committee: to serve as the anchor in the University's IT Governance structure. The ITAC is the first step
toward a broader governance approach for IT at Pitt, ensuring that the University receives and acts on
input on the needs of all segments of the University community. The Pitt IT Vision and Strategy
infographic shows the vision supports the Plan for Pitt, which serves as the North Star.

Following an overview of Pitt IT's response to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and a progress
report on IT projects to date, Henderson introduced three topics for committee attention and action:
Data Governance, Information Security, and an overall review of University IT policy:

Effective Data Governance is an important need at the University. Burton, in his role as Data and Privacy
Officer for Pitt IT, underscored the challenges impacting the effective use of University institutional data:
lack of effective governance, persistent confusion about the ownership of institutional data, and more.
The concept of institutional data as a critical University resource is key to allowing access for everyone in
the Pitt community who needs it and the ability to utilize institutional data effectively.

Information Security is critical to ensuring security and privacy of personal information, health data,
educational data, and more. Garmon, who serves as Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), indicated
that the ITAC will play an important role in helping to define University security standards and targets.
He observed that the University already has a good information security program, but needs to address
other compliance areas, along with high-value intellectual property, more closely.

Addressing University policy on IT, Henderson noted that University policies often overlap. Some need
to be updated, simplified, or retired and new policies may need to be established. Pitt IT is working in
cooperation with the University Policy Office to update the University Network and Computer Access
and Use policies initially. As the anchor in the IT governance process, the ITAC will play an important role
in shaping these policies and recommending new ones in the future.

Following the presentation, Henderson opened the floor for general discussion:

➢ **Deeper Involvement of University IT with Health Sciences**
Becich stated that it is critical that Pitt IT under Henderson's leadership become more deeply integrated with the Health Sciences. He noted that a great deal of work has already begun, as he and Silverstein meet with Pitt IT leadership regularly. Pitt needs to be closer to the One IT model from a research IT perspective.

➢ **One IT Initiative**
Henderson responded with a description of the "One IT" initiative, in which department-based IT becomes part of Pitt IT and in return, Pitt IT partners with the departments to meet their IT needs. The focus is on partnership to better meet needs rather than the current model of unit-based IT services. This plan has been well-received to date and deans have been invited to participate. The first example of such a beneficial integration was the formation of Pitt IT from the former CSSD and FIS units. Costs were immediately driven down by $1.2 million, plus potentially several hundred thousand more in the next several years. At the same time, IT support and delivery were significantly enhanced. Sastry noted that this integration started at the end of last year and was fantastic because having one central IT organization instead of two made sense from a security, efficiency, and effectiveness point of view. He also noted that in addition to cost savings, the merger resulted in better career path options for staff and greater efficiency of operations.

➢ **Meta Mesh**
Commenting on Pitt IT's work with Meta Mesh to provide Internet service to underserved communities (see pre-read materials), Baldwin raised a concern about the potential for commercial service providers having attempted to block such initiatives. Meta Mesh is focused on underserved communities without Internet service from commercial providers.

➢ **Distributed Data Center Access**
Delitto raised a concern about access to distributed (school and department-based) data centers. Henderson observed that the Pitt IT Data Center is the University's data center and its resources are available throughout the University community. Becich noted that he and Silverstein are working with Pitt IT on use cases for secure storage environments. Pitt IT is working on program for research faculty to move data seamlessly from Pitt IT, the Center for Research Computing, and supercomputing center resources without concern about where the data are located. Henderson suggested that the best approach to identify solutions is to come and talk with Pitt IT about data center needs.

➢ **Possible Data Center Subcommittee**
Henderson suggested that a subcommittee could investigate the issues with data center access and data storage and make a recommendation on ways to address the issues, emphasizing that ITAC subcommittees can be created at any time to address need-specific issues.

Future Meetings
The pre-read material contains suggestions for future meeting dates and times. 2021 schedule to be finalized.

Action Items

- ➤ Form Subcommittees:
  - Data Governance
  - Information Security
  - Consider Data Center/Storage Subcommittee

- ➤ Schedule 2021 quarterly meetings

Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.