Senate Computing and information Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Present: I. Murtazashvili, H. Fisher, K. Fish, G. Fort, A. Hobaugh, A. Abdelak, S. Belle, S. Sereika, M. Spring, M. Henderson, S. A. Jamal, H. Fischer, S. Quigley, G. Fort, S. Wells, K. Doty, R. Young, M. Henderson, B. Hart

Absent: D. Babichenko, D. Kielur, X. Shi, A. Eisenhardt, S. Jones, R. Young, R. Young

Called to Order: 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of the January 26 meeting approved.

Chair's Report

- Draft University Policy AO 38: University Network. Changes were made to the draft policy to help address faculty concerns about special network services. This new version of the policy is on the agenda for the Faculty Assembly's April 12 meeting. Faculty Assembly previously requested changes that could have the unintended consequence of rendering the policy ineffective. The new revisions are intended to commit Pitt IT to working with faculty on special network configurations that could be required under some circumstances, a service that Pitt IT has historically provided.

  Action: Endorsed policy with latest revisions. Will forward to Faculty Assembly for further action.

- ChatGPT – Murtazashvili noted that SCITC could take on this issue for discussion and recommendations if needed, noting that the Center for Teaching and Learning has developed resources and seminars for faculty interested in learning more about the technology. Henderson noted that the ITAC Data Governance Subcommittee is looking at taking up this issue from a data privacy standpoint. Will consider what model we should use with these kinds of AI tools. Murtazashvili provided a link to work a colleague has posted on the subject. Sereika points out that information is also available at https://teaching.pitt.edu/resources/chatgpt-resources-for-faculty.

  Spring asked if Pitt has any academic integrity statement about students submitting someone else's work as their own, noting surprise that the Pitt Promise contains no such language. Discussion ensued regarding the degree to which receiving assistance with an assignment could be considered plagiarism or unoriginal work. Consensus reached that the issue is complex and more consideration is needed. Murtazashvili raised a question about diversity, equity, and inclusion issues relating to ChatGPT and electronic tools. Equitable access to technology is an important consideration. Students will need to figure out how to use the tools and then write original papers. The Committee will need to continue thinking about these issues.

- Status of Software Licensing and Use Discussion: Belle asked for an update on the status of the document providing guidance on permissible uses of software and privacy rights. Hart reported that Michael Pierce of the Office of University Counsel and Carl DePasquale have been working on this guidance and expect to be ready to provide further information at the April SCITC meeting.

➤ CIO's Report

Data Governance – Henderson reported that discussions are ongoing about what data people have and how it can be utilized. Recommendations were forwarded by the DGS through ITAC considering the University's data values and principles: who we are as a university and how we use data. The DGS has recommended guidance on general uses of data, what data is gathered. Pitt IT Analytics under the leadership of Chad Burton is focusing on ways to use data: data is the "coin of the realm," critical to all aspects of the University's functioning. The framework developed by DGS focuses on how Pitt collects, uses, and stores information. DGS and ITAC include stakeholders from all areas of the institution.

Spring commented that while use is important, additional considerations involve what to collect, and when what is collected should be retired. Henderson noted that an operational group to govern these issues is coming after the advisory work of the ITAC Data Governance Subcommittee is completed.

Meeting Adjourned 3:00 p.m. Next meeting to be scheduled.