# Senate Computing Usage Committee - January 18, 2013

**Members in attendance**: Alexandros Labrinidis [AL], Jinx Walton [JW], Joe Constantino [JC], Irene Freize [IF], Fran Yarger [FY], Michael Bolan [MB], Frank Beatrous [FB], Susan Sereika [SS], Alex Jones [AJ], Arif Jamal [AAJ], Xiuying Zou [XZ],

**Excused**: Michael Pinsky [MP], Kenny Dotty [KD], Luis Vargas [LV], Vincent Arena [VA]

Meeting started at 10:04am

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## 1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Minutes approved by those present

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## 2. CSSD Update - Jinx Walton

[JW] Add email addresses in peoplesoft to the downloadable roster. Can be implemented, but needs to be vetted by peoplesoft in 3 weeks -- should be ready by end of term

[JW] popular apps -- recommendations -- also break down by type of user (faculty vs student) -- available already

[JW] new computing purchasing policy
90% of Windows purchases were for Dell equipment
talked to people - identified popular configurations - negotiated with Dell for steeper discounts on these configurations

[FY] purchasing of non-CDW computers required justification to Purchasing (if it is in CDW, then cannot get from gov-connection, if CDW does not have it, then you can go back to gov-connection)

[AL] need to monitor implementation of policy and make sure there is no harm
[AL] suggestion: implementation of FAQ next to new policy

[JW] read-green, will no longer overwrite previous URLs

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[JW] read-green, to have short description of what the attachment is like -- mailing services agreed to it and within the next couple of weeks will be released.

[JW] many of library resources restricted by IP -- was handled by sremote, will now be done by easyproxy. Only for those resources that require Pitt IP authentication.

[SS] will it be seamless?

[FY] it is browser specific (put your username and password) and it is very seamless. You do not need to use sremote for library resources.

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[JW] OIS started a new online service that is not using my.pitt.edu, they are using a software package that is not capable of linking to my.pitt.edu authentication service. Promised in first quarter of this year would be integrated.

[JW] progress in implementing wireless in the residence halls. Expensive project, but Auxiliary Services (housing) will pay for it. New dorm has this built-in.

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[JW] box.com update. Most significant comment, it does not work for linux, just through the web interface. Box.com's feedback was that right now they are focusing on windows and mac. Overall, there has been a lot of interest from those who tried it.

[JC] used it and was fairly happy
[??] negative experience, it was hard to set it up because of a previous account that conflicted with the same email, and had to talk to CSSD help desk line. Eventually was resolved. But if people have existing accounts, this could be a problem.
[AL] tried service, seemed to work as advertised.

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[JW] postini is our spam filter and google bought them, there was some concern about continuity. This is being resolved for the time being, but we will probably need to address this again in the future.

## 3. Suggestions on possible improvements to PeopleSoft

[AJ] training process to use different feature of peoplesoft -- not very efficient. Could be streamlined for different levels of competency. In person training sessions. New role as director of computer engineering, access to student records. Training sessions for multiple hours. Could there be a way to have a computer-savvy way of using people soft.

[FB] inconsistencies of what is training required of people - 6 hours of training for 5 minutes of real info
any time we add a new faculty member for an advising role, some paperwork, some piece of some access is always missing. For example, how to remove an advising hold. This has taken over a year for a faculty member.

[AL] roles are not clearly-defined

[IF] More descriptive titles for links (e.g., Self Service)

[FB] can there be a message about not completing the grade assignment?
[AL] before exiting the page, there needs to be a pop-up double-checking this.

[JW] will follow-up as soon as possible, to get more details

[AL] option to upload spreadsheets with grades in batch mode

[FB] grade changes through people-soft (instead of paper forms)

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## 4. Experiences using HS Connect

[AL] a lot of wasted time when try to use this system, not clear which modules could be used.

[FY] legacy system, without taking another look recently. Not intuitive and not well-connected.

[JC] used it a lot for all training models, not sure which module to go to.

[AL] simple solution would be to add unique keywords to each training module and make sure these are referenced in memos going out.

[FY] a lot of different offices have a component, so it is a very lengthy process to do changes.

[AJ] something that is done for a specific purpose and has been grown beyond its original design. Need to be re-designed. Too big a system.

[IF] perhaps we need both a short-term and a long-term fix.

[AJ] short-term fix is crucial.

[AL] coordinated keywords, between HS connect and memos being sent
[AJ] coordination is an issue, need more headroom and this is part of the issue.

[JC] short-term: direct link / keywords / statement that this is a problem and either significantly revise or make a new system
[AL] agree with that and take a step further with a set of minimum guidelines for a faculty member to make this less arduous.

[ACTION] short-term fix, memo to Jinx from Alex L.

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## 5. Feedback on new [www.pitt.edu](www.pitt.edu) web site

Tabled

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## 6. Any other business

None.

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Meeting ended at 11:07 am
Scribe: Alexandros Labrinidis

**Next meetings**: February 15, 2013 / March 22, 2013 / April 19, 2013