

# Senate Computing Usage Committee - March 22, 2013

**Members in attendance:** Alexandros Labrinidis [AL], Jinx Walton [JW], Vincent Arena [VA], Luis Vargas [LV] John LaDue [JL], Arif Jamal [AAJ], Michael Bolam [MB], Kenny Dotty [KD], Frank Beatrous [FB],

**Excused:** Michael Pinsky [MP], Mark Redfern [MR], Joe Constantino [JC], Susan Sereika [SS], Alex Jones [AJ], Fran Yarger [FY],

Meeting started at 10:02am

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## 1. Presentation on Academic Analytics Database

Presented by: Vice Provost David DeJong [DD] and Amanda Brodish [AB]

[DD] planning is central to everything the university is doing; guides resource allocation, admissions strategies, big initiatives. planning is decentralized; long (5-7 year) plans and annual plans; often plans are created bottoms-up at each school.

plans have similar structure: mission statement, list of goals, series of strategies with every goal, every strategy has corresponding metrics; each metric has long-range aspirational target and a year-by-year evaluation of metric (e.g., graduation rates, placement rates for students, teaching effectiveness, etc)

one metric that has been tough to measure: scholarly productivity  
this is where academic analytics comes in.

different to compare scholarly productivity across departments/schools.  
raw numbers would not be enough, would be best to compare with peer departments/schools.

that's why we are using academic analytics database: to provide context and quantify scholarly output.

This marks the third year that the University of Pittsburgh is subscribed to the Academic Analytics Database (AAD). Have been working with individual Deans. Benchmarks are being established.

one challenge: making sure people affiliated with a certain program are properly reflected (working towards having a maximum of a

# *Senate Computing Usage Committee - March 22, 2013*

six-month lag in updates to database, after end of academic year)

[VA] how does data get populated from different units? and how do we know that certain things are not missed?

[DD] AAD does the population (humongous list of journals for example), work at the level of a scholar (and disambiguate names)

[VA] how to make sure that data is clean?

[DD] they allow us to do this one person at a time. Checks so far have been accurate. AAD works extremely hard to guarantee quality.

[AL] one idea is to benchmark with a certain subset of faculty

[DD] AAD is a very good partner, this is something to consider.

[AL] there was a question about who gets credit for grants?

[DD] only PI and only the institution that has the PI

[JW] list of PI/co-PIs on grants can be part of faculty information system

[AL] fact book has totals (per School and also for the entire University) -- can be used for comparison.

[AB] most other Universities have similar fact books, so at the University level this productivity can be accurately reported and compared.

[DD] try not to interfere too much with how different schools are using this; there differences among schools. Have done a few information sessions for department chairs or other leaders at department/program level, and will continue to do this as demand dictates. Up to the Deans to use as a measurement tool as appropriate.

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## **2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes approved

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# *Senate Computing Usage Committee - March 22, 2013*

## **3. Feedback on Dell/CDW purchasing policies**

[VA] in own department some people want to purchase something other than Dell or MAC. Mentioned it at faculty meeting, that it is a preferred vendor, but people can purchase other. Initially were told that they need some justification for a non-preferred purchase. However, now there does not seem to be any way to buy a non dell/mac through Purchasing (e.g., a Samsung) and the department administrator now refers to university policy as mandatory, with the only exception being a tablet.

Need clarification whether this is University or Department policy.

Panther express now filters out anything related to computers at CDW.

[JW] also getting a lot of calls that Purchasing said "Jinx Walton" said that you cannot buy a non dell/mac computer. Confirmed with Art Ramicore that you can indeed purchase any computer that you like. Part of the problem is how the Purchasing site is setup. It is very difficult to purchase other than a dell/mac.

[AL] one suggestion to make sure one can purchase a samsung/hp through Panther Express, as a test of the ability to purchase a non dell/mac.

[JW] will follow up with Art Ramicore and Maureen Beal

[AL] add to the FAQ a question about buying a Samsung, with the answer being Yes, but not recommended because we don't have any special deals, should solve the issue to everybody's satisfaction.

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## **4. Feedback on Read-Green**

[AL] read-green fully integrated to workflow of mailing services. This has the unintended consequence of memos sent out under limited release (e.g., to all Department Chairs) are being sent via read-green. In other words, read-green delivers not just memos that

# *Senate Computing Usage Committee - March 22, 2013*

are broadcast to entire campus.

[JW] currently subscribed: 987 faculty and 2430 staff

[AL] one idea is to send an announcement that highlights read-green being used for non-broadcast announcements

[FB] are links protected? especially crucial for confidential information

[JW] definitely ways to make it secure, but could be more difficult to get access.

[FB] responsibility of sender to realize not good for sending confidential information

[AL] add on the bottom of the email being sent out a notice about the specific list that this message is being sent to.

[Kenny] add something similar to [SCUC] from the mailing list header

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## **5. CSSD Update - Jinx Walton**

box.com (6,016 people have signed up -- 20% of faculty)

tabled - faculty information systems

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## **6. Nominations for new Committee Members**

Senate committee elections will take place April 24-May 6. Candidate Slate needs to be finalized by April 8th.

Terms expiring: Joe Costantino, Arif Jamal, John LaDue, all eligible to run again.

# *Senate Computing Usage Committee - March 22, 2013*

Ideally we are looking for six candidates.  
Contact: Lori Molinaro (lam06@pitt.edu)

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## **7. Any other business**

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Meeting ended at 11:05 am  
Scribe: Alexandros Labrinidis

**Next meeting:** April 19, 2013