

Senate Computing and information Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2023

Present: A. Zack, I. Frieze, A. Hobaugh, A. Jamal, K. Libertus, S. Belle, S. Sereika, S. Wells, P. Morel, H. Fischer, K. Fish, S. LeMieux, M. Tang, R. Kear, M. Henderson, B. Hart, S. Quigley

Absent: J. Costantino, A. Jones, D Kielur, J. Shaibani, H. Venkatesh, S. Wisniewski, K. Doty, V. Arena

Call to Order: 1:30 p.m. Minutes of the October meeting approved unanimously

- Chair's Report – Zack expressed thanks for those able to attend, noting that this is the final meeting of the calendar year and just before the winter break. Today's agenda includes the CIO's report and member topics for discussion.
- CIO Report – Henderson reported on the following:
 - Microsoft CoPilot – Pitt IT is planning to acquire some licenses to allow evaluation of the product and allow for acclimation to the technology. More to come as these plans develop. Henderson noted that a group headed by the interim Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Research is preparing a report on its findings regarding artificial intelligence (AI) that should be forthcoming soon.
 - The One IT at Pitt initiative is continuing, and the Pitt IT organization continues its journey of transformation. Cristy Spino, Pitt IT Executive Director for Customer Success, has spoken with the SCITC previously. She and her team continue to meet with responsibility centers throughout the University to understand their objectives and bring back information that is vital to Pitt IT's transformation and responsiveness to unit needs and aspirations.
 - The transition to TDX as a service management and call center tool for the University continues. Training is underway and the solution continues to be developed to ensure timely and accurate response to support calls and service requests.

Member Questions:

- Fish – will the University offer a solution for purchasing CoPilot and Chat GPT licenses? Currently, there is no central solution for purchasing under the University's tax-exempt status and this creates challenges for faculty and others wishing to purchase licenses via online ordering. Henderson noted that CoPilot is not currently a part of the University's overall Microsoft agreement, but the Pitt IT Vender Relations team is working to put licensing arrangement in place. Hobaugh noted that Open AI has not yet responded to the University's attempts to engage in licensing discussions, but work is continuing.
- Quigley asked about the application integrations that CoPilot will support, such as Outlook, Word, and others, and the extent to which the software will integrate with Microsoft's suite of applications. Additional discussion took place regarding the integration capabilities of both CoPilot and Chat GPT. Quigley also asked about the status of Google Docs and AI. Henderson noted that Pitt IT is investigating these and other questions relating to AI and application integrations.

➤ Member Topics:

- Software License Agreements – Belle asked about developments in the discussion from last year regarding the obligations placed on users when they agree to user license agreements connected with University software that they are obligated to use, such as Canvas and others. He noted that there was effort to develop a fact sheet to guide users and some discussion about that document had occurred. In response to Henderson’s request for an example of how a user might be expected to agree to something beyond the requirements of a University agreement, Belle referred to the “click-through” agreements presented to users in the software. His continuing concern is that users might not understand lengthy end user agreements that they must accept. Henderson indicated that Carl DePasquale of the Pitt IT Vendor Relations team can come to a future meeting to respond to further questions and issues.

(Note that an updated version of the software licensing fact sheet prepared by DePasquale and Michael Pierce of the Office of University Counsel was forwarded to SCITC members at the October meeting.)

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Next meeting date and time to be arranged.