

Senate Computing and information Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2024

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

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

Call to Order: 1:00 p.m. Minutes of the December meeting approved unanimously

- Chair's Report – Zack thanked everyone in attendance, noting that no new member topics were raised prior to the meeting and no old business is on the table.
- CIO Report – Henderson and members of his team reported on the following:
 - 10-Year IT Planning Horizon – Pitt IT invites voices from across the University as input into this planning process, which is in support of the Plan for Pitt, progresses. Invitations to interviews, surveys, and group sessions have been given to stakeholders across the University, as well as to community leaders, CIOs including UPMC and CMU, and vendor partners. Deloitte Consulting is working with Pitt IT to gather input and assist in the development of the plan, which includes two five-year phases. Stakeholders will be part of the feedback process for the draft plan once developed. Additional updates will be given as the process continues.
 - Duska reported that his Information Security team is working on the following IT security initiatives:
 - Remove unused objects in the University's Active Directory system. This process will not impact active objects in the system, but only those that have not been used in the last three years.
 - Email Validation – process of validating emails that appear to be from pitt.edu email addresses to make sure those messages came from University servers. This will help to reduce the number of malicious messages that are designed to appear to come from within the University to trick people into taken action thinking they are legitimate.
 - External Email Tags – The word "EXTERNAL" will be prefixed to the subject line of any message originating from a non-University address.
 - Retiring Legacy Antivirus/Malware Detection Tools – Legacy tools such as MalwareBytes will be discontinued at Pitt by the end of March. The University has standardized on the use of Microsoft Defender, which is more effective and part of the University's Microsoft License.
 - Change to the DUO Multifactor Authentication prompt screen. Users may notice that the prompt to verify a login through the DUO software program will change. The functionality and procedure for authenticating remains the same. This change is a cosmetic change introduced by the vendor.
 - Doty asked how mandatory security training for University users is being enforced. Henderson noted that there will be future repercussions for those members of the community who do not comply with the information security

training requirement, particularly if that person becomes involved in an IT security incident. He noted that training is the best way to protect the University and members of the community as well as the University's intellectual property assets.

- Quigley raised a concern about the accessibility of IT security training links on the Information Technology website. Some training is hard to find. Duska noted that his team will follow up and determine an appropriate resolution.
- Quigley asked about the various messages that include links to additional information, noting that he is reluctant to click on any links contained in email. He noted that he sends such messages to the phish@pitt.edu email address to determine if they are legitimate. Duska acknowledged that this is the correct approach.
- Fullem reported on the progress of replacing the current Faculty Information System, noting that several options were considered with significant input from stakeholders. Through the RFP process, the cloud version of the current Elements system has been selected. Sereika asked if all RCs will have the ability to extract data needed for reports and indicated that there should be a plan for doing so. Fullem thanked her for the input, noting that Sereika represents one of the stakeholders providing input for the replacement project. Fullem will report on progress as the project continues.
- Henderson noted that members of his team will join the March SCITC meeting to discuss AI initiatives and answer questions on software licensing questions.

➤ Member Topics:

- Privacy Policy Committee – Fish reported that this new policy committee on which he will serve plans to begin meeting in March.
- Software Licensing – Belle noted that he read the latest draft of the Software Licensing Fact Sheet presented to the Committee. He noted that the sheet talks about institutional agreements, but he has concerns about end user license agreements that are not addressed. He also noted ongoing concerns about how prohibitions on commercial use and use of software for personal gain apply such as in situations where faculty members are given small honoraria for serving on, for example, NIH review committees. Topic will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 p.m. Next meeting date scheduled for March 25 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.