



Information Technology Committee

Minutes of April 29, 2021

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Present: Chair Niko Kaciroti, Ravi Pendse, Marisa Conte, Emily Fuentes, Rachel Qiu, Colby Lewis, Allen Liu, Zhixin Liu, Rick Richter, Rachel Vacek, Elizabeth Devlin

Absent: Melissa Dyson, Ryan Echlin, Melvin McInnis

Guest: Jacob Carlson, Director, Research Data Services, University Library

3:05 pm: Chair Kaciroti called the meeting to order.

Motion to approve March 24, 2021 meeting minutes was made and seconded. There being no further discussion the minutes were approved.

ITC SACUA report review

Committee reviewed the draft of the final report and discussed the three topics that the committee was charged to cover. The committee was able to cover all the topics and worked with VP IT Pendse's office to offer solutions.

- Consider issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in terms of service delivery and technical assistance and provide best practices for IT resources and their effective use for new project development among diverse populations.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of virtual meetings to inform future business practices post COVID-19.
- Assess new technologies that may facilitate work in teaching, research, and service to stay current on the most current technological innovations.
 - Next steps: Chair Kaciroti will send the report to the committee for their review and suggestions.

Recommendations for critical items to focus on next year

Chair Kaciroti suggested topics for the committee to review for next year.

- Continue to consider issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in terms of service delivery and technical assistance and provide best practices for IT resources and their effective use for new project development among diverse populations on campus.
- Improve support for data management, including storage (support the migration from Box to Dropbox).
 - Committee member asked VP Pendse about the status of the migration from Box to Dropbox.
 - The status of the migration is that they are currently working with target partners, and ITS to roll out and conduct testing. Once the testing is complete, they will make it available campus wide. VP Pendse will provide a timeline of the migration project.

VP Pendse would like the committee to consider the following topics for next year.

- How the university can support their researchers in the computing space. There have been concerns that the offerings at the university are not as competitive as at peer institutions.
- Issues about information security, the constant focus on security and information security will take the efforts of students, faculty, and staff to keep systems secure.

Chair Kaciroti will add the two suggested topics and circulate to the committee for review, approval, and feedback.

Chair Kaciroti thanked VP Pendse for participation and support. VP Pendse thanked Chair Kaciroti for his leadership and committee members for their input and committee work. He invited the committee to reach out to



him in the future if they had anything they would like to discuss or if they have any questions.

3:30 pm VP Pendse left the meeting.

Presentation: Supporting U-M Researchers in Sharing their Data:

Jacob Carlson, Director, Research Data Services, University Library

Jake Carlson's shared with the committee how to share data in ways that could increase the impact of research.

- Carlson shared that his department Research Data Services oversees a data repository called Deep Blue Data that anyone at the University of Michigan can use to deposit and share their data with the world. They provide services to support that such as consultation, education to the individual or their team, and to work with researchers to get the data into the repository. This support is not limited to only sharing DATA through Deep Blue Data but any repository the researcher would like to use to share their data.
- A Public Access to Research Data working group was created and charged by the Provost and VP for research to make recommendations for supporting U-M researchers in making data publicly accessible.
 - Recommendation one: U-M should create a faculty committee knowledgeable on the challenges in sharing research data and charge them with acting on the issues identified in their final report.
 - Recommendation two: The units that provide support for data management, sharing, curation, and preservation at U-M should coordinate and align their work even more closely.
 - The working group report is available on Deep Blue - <https://tinyurl.com/UMDataSharing>
- Research Data services is working with OVPR and other stakeholders on three projects:
 - Analyzing U-M's Data Management plans
 - Developing a better understanding of how U-M faculty experience data sharing.
 - Mapping a support for research data at U-M across the data lifecycle.
- Committee questions and discussion:
 - Chair Kaciroti asked how faculty can maximize the resources that they offer at an early stage, such as data management.
 - Carlson indicated that for data management the earlier you can start planning the more effective your data outcomes will be. They offer consultations to meet to learn about the data, learn about the research objectives and make suggestions from their perspective of how you would want to prepare it for eventual sharing. Consultations are at no cost, if the researcher is interested in their department doing some of the work on their behalf it would have to be negotiated to be written into the grant.
 - Committee members discussed the challenges of managing data that is generated by graduate students. Carlson offered possible solutions such as creating an exit document to capture where the students have been storing the data, etc. He also recommended developing lab protocols for how the data is managed and stored.

Chair Kaciroti thanked Jacob Carlson for attending the meeting and thanked the committee for their time and work throughout the academic year. He will follow up with the committee with the final report that will be submitted to SACUA.

Adjournment at 4:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Devlin
Faculty Senate Office