Information Technology Committee (ITC) Minutes

Meeting Date: March 9, 2-3 pm (regular meeting)
Circulated: 4/10/2023
Approved: 4/13/2023

Present: Heather O’Malley (Chair), Ravi Pendse (VP for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer), Vashni Santee (Executive Assistant to VP Pendse), Yasser Aboelkassem, Vivek Kumar, Yun Jiang, Magda Ivanova, Zhixin Liu, Ann Marshall (FSO, Secretary), Maura Seale, Sonia Maraya Tiquia-Arashiro

1. Meeting called to order at 2:05 and minutes from the February meeting were approved.

2. Follow-up discussion on CrowdStrike Falcon
   • Tour date/time, with ITC subgroup of backend of CrowdStrike Falcon TBA
   • Chair O’Malley summarized a listserv email message received in the Faculty Senate Office from a Big Ten Academic Alliance campus that raised cybersecurity and privacy questions/concerns, including: software discussed in email is CORTEX (similar to CrowdStrike); the campus requires CORTEX on both University and personally-owned devices; question raised about insurance; AAUP Academic Freedom and Electronic Communications report (2014) was referenced and seems useful, but may be out of date.
   • Additional discussion included: price for cybersecurity insurance has increased dramatically and UM is investigating the best options in a ransomware era; IT is gathering feedback from faculty on the IT privacy dashboard being created for faculty and staff; IT recommends that faculty protect their personal (non-university machines); In January, there was a KillNet cyber attack on the healthcare sector

3. VP Pendse encouraged ITC members to provide input as part of President Ono’s visioning process, i.e. one of the core pillars of the visioning process focuses on -- where is technology headed by 2034; the Generative Artificial Intelligence Advisory (GAIA) Working Group will have its report by June 30th; the visioning process is meant to be a dreaming document, to be bold and to not restrict ideas

4. Discussion on issues from the ITC Charge: IT equity across Ann Arbor, Flint, Dearborn, are there opportunities to better include Flint/Dearborn and to enhance collaboration so there is not duplication? Are there opportunities to reduce duplication across 19 units within a campus; Zoom is okay for informal polls but SimplyVoting is recommended for formal votes and for private voting.

5. Q & A Discussion
   • ITC member asked about security for sensors used to acquire real-time data in a class on the Internet of Things on the Flint Campus, and, in particular, a student project/s on mobile robots. VP Pendse offered to follow-up and also noted his attendance and support for student presenters at a recent undergraduate research symposium.
• ITC member asked about the changes in Google Drive and VP Pendse noted the new storage limit is 250 GB, likely to be ample for most users; Team accounts for Dropbox are encouraged, especially in accessing lab-based work created by students who will graduate; IT can work with and support faculty who need large amounts of storage for research; IT is working with several colleges to consider cost/benefits of Google vs Microsoft, is it still a good deal to stay with Google? Note that UM license does not allow UM-affiliates to run a business on Google Drive storage.

Next and final meeting of 2022-2023: Thursday, April 13, 2023, 2:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marshall (FSO, Secretary)