



## Information Technology Committee (ITC) Minutes

**Meeting Date: December 11, 2024 11 am** (regular meeting)

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Approved: 2/19/2025

**Present:** Quentin Stout (Chair), Mashon Allen (VP's Chief of Staff), Natasha Allen, Susan Borda, James Cranford, Ivo Dinov, Amir Mortazawi, Ravi Pendse (VP for Information Technology and CIO), Deirdre Spencer (SACUA liaison), Jeffrey Yackley

**Absent:** Yasser Aboelkassem, Michael Bohanon, Sanjeev Kumar

1. Call to order and approval of the minutes
2. The agenda item on computer security and CrowdStrike Falcon was moved to the February ITC meeting to allow for a more in-depth discussion.
3. VP Pendse provided a brief U-M AI history, an update, and remarks on AI's environmental impact.
  - In 2023, Provost McCauley and VP Pendse sponsored a group of faculty across U-M to provide campus guidance on AI, resulting in a [June 2023 report](#). U-M is seen as a leader in this area, with U-M offering a custom suite of [U-M AI tools](#).
  - More recent U-M AI developments include better integration with Canvas; the release of findings of a U-M AI Research Committee Recommendations Report outlining suggested AI key investments, internal innovation, and ethics and compliance; U-M's [AI partnership with Los Alamos](#); faculty use of AI for research, such as an AI model that [detects cancerous brain tumors](#).
  - It is important to be concerned about the environmental impact of AI. High performance computing has a large appetite for water and cooling. U-M has a [Vice Provost for Sustainability and Climate Action](#) that is focused on U-M sustainability. U-M chose to use Microsoft as a vendor and Microsoft has a goal to be [carbon negative by 2030](#).
  - Student campus groups, e.g. [Students for Sustainable AI Development](#), are interested in a U-M dashboard that, for example, shows how much water is used each time AI's DALL-E makes a graph.
4. ITC and VP Pendse discussion on environmental impacts of AI
  - Developing large AI language models takes tremendous computing power and is not something U-M can do on its own.
  - The U-M demand for computing power will soon surpass what is available. U-M data centers are at 80% of capacity and U-M can't wait until 2030 to address such needs. U-M faculty want the computing power to support large scale research projects. A [new U-M data center](#) is to be build on Textile road. Use of AI energy is larger than commercial airplanes but less than 2% of the carbon footprint, with automobiles at 18%.
  - A question was asked about whether students' use of AI is tracked by U-M. IT abides by [U-M's privacy policy](#) and offers a [sensitive data guide](#). IT does not access or track U-M students' AI use. If a legal subpoena from the FBI was received, a number of steps would be taken before U-M could hand over any information.
  - A question was asked about whether U-M's AI initiatives are in conflict with U-M's goal of achieving [carbon neutrality by 2040](#). VP Pendse said that the Regents are in support of both AI and



sustainability, that the two goals are interdependent, and that other forms of power are being pursued, such as solar farms, geothermal energy, and nuclear energy.

- It was recommended that the focus shift from [GAIM](#) use to GAIM development and that a balanced approach of both centralized GAIM and local (lab-GAIM) shops be supported. U-M might pursue building a GAIM AI-assistant from scratch, assess and examine the barriers throughout the end-to-end protocol, i.e. from design, development, training, testing, validation, deployment, and sustainability.
- ITC members also discussed the [labor behind AI](#). VP Pendse shared information about [Karya](#), an organization working to responsibly pay and train tech workers residing in disadvantaged communities.
- The importance of AI literacy was stressed – to not use AI for everything, but to use AI responsibly, including when not to use AI.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Marshall (FSO, Faculty Governance Coordinator)