



Information Technology Committee (ITC) Minutes

Meeting Date: March 19, 2 pm (regular meeting)

Circulated: 04/16/2025

Approved: 04/23/2025

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

Absent: Yasser Aboelkassem, Michael Bohanon, Ivo Dinov

1. The meeting was called to order and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

2. AI Update -- VP Pendse

- It is expected that the demand for AI will increase, with interest from faculty for AI from both a teaching and research perspective. The Go Blue AI App, available to the U-M community, went live earlier this year. Student have been providing feedback, such as suggesting info. be added about where free food is served. IT continues to work with the community to fill gaps, and ITC members are encouraged to try out the app. IT was noted that Go Blue is designed for mobile devices and MiMaizey works best with desktop applications.
- VP Pendse invited feedback about whether Maizey should be an opt-in or an opt-out tool in Canvas. ITS members offered varying perspectives, including that 1) opt-in may be considered a best practice so that tools are not predatory (as in some apps), while another suggested that 2) opt-out could be better given the tremendous demands on faculty members' time. Mike Wellman's work on open AI was mentioned.
- There was discussion about the possibility of building an AI tool to assist research administrators in navigating grant guidelines. It was noted that such tools might have applications in Emergency Medicine, and it was offered that someone from VP Pendse's team will follow-up to consider possibilities.
- There was discussion about how to better include Dearborn and Flint. IT is very open to such partnerships, and faculty and IT at Dearborn and Flint are encouraged to contact VP Pendse.
- The [I Use AI: How the University of Michigan is Using Artificial Intelligence video](#) was shown.

3. Accessibility Update

- Appreciation was shared for Stephanie Rosen's leadership with the recent [accessibility](#) initiatives.
- [Grackle](#) is software that helps allow content you're creating can be used with a screen reader.
- [Panorama](#) is an accessibility tool in Canvas allowing students to create alternative formats for content and attached files. With Panorama, it was noted that there was an issue with assigned PDF course content being uneditable, and links were used instead which made the course ultimately less accessible.

4. Open Discussion on IT issues

- There was discussion about the risk of budget cuts and that it is an unpredictable time. U-M came through COVID stronger than before, and it is helpful to imagine what administrators are going through with the current challenges. The university community wants to do its best to support Ph.D. students. Some expenses can't be considered for cuts, such as yearly subscriptions for Internet access.



- One faculty member identified a possible need for better support with UNIX and Linux, such that a small team of campus experts might offer training and/or other assistance. This could be a possible initiative to be considered for the fall term.
- There was discussion about what might constitute an innovative grant application, with encouragement to think outside the box, and to consider creative collaborations such as combining computer science and the social sciences.
- An update was provided that biometric security options will be made available as a pilot in the fall. The problem with passwords is that people often fall for phishing attempts. Biometric options have been requested by students. The decision of whether to use biometrics or passwords will remain with the user.
- An ITC member expressed appreciation for having discussions at all levels, and that it is healthy to hear varying views and to model the kinds of conversations that would like to be seen more broadly. Additional ITC members made similar remarks, noting the importance of vibrant discussions and for having humanities also involved in technical/engineering decisions. The analogy of a hand was shared, in that both the diversity and unity of five fingers is needed for a hand to work well.

5. Final ITC Report

- At the April meeting, the final ITC report will be discussed, and it was recommended the report be organized around key topics discussed, such as AI, accessibility, etc.

Meeting adjourned

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