



**Project Management Office**  
**UC Information Technologies (UCIT)**  
University of Cincinnati  
PO Box 210658  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0149

Suite 400, University Hall  
51 Goodman Drive  
(513) 556-9089

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **IT COUNCIL**

**DATE:** MARCH 26, 2014  
**TIME:** 8:00 AM TO 9:30 AM  
**LOCATION:** UNIVERSITY HALL, ROOM 610  
**CHAIR:** NELSON VINCENT

## **CALL TO ORDER**

---

Nelson Vincent welcomed the members and asked for introductions.

**Present:** John Hutton, Anton Harfmann, Diana Noelcke, Nelson Vincent, Erma Fritsche, William Ball, Dom Ferreri, Jeremy Martin, Pamela Baker

**Apologies:** Kristi Nelson, Corrie Becker, Ayca Mazman, Mark Faulkner, Joe Blizzard, Mary Beth McGrew, Russ McMahan, Bob Ambach

**Note:** Xuemao Wang attempted to join by conference call but was unable to connect

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

---

Nelson asked if there were any changes to minutes from the last meeting. There were none. Anton Harfmann motioned to accept them, John Hutton seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

## **BUSINESS**

---

### **UniverSIS Replacement Update**

- Oracle PeopleSoft Campus Solutions and io Consulting, Inc will be on campus Thurs, April 10, to officially kickoff the Student Information System implementation. It's expected that the system's launch will begin in 2015 and complete in 2016. Construction is underway at Victory Parkway for the team. Robin Pittman and Doug Burgess are the co-chairs, and Gary Grafe is the technical lead. Everything will launch on schedule, especially the financial aid module. Nelson said the first 40 days of the project will be used to assess the impact on other systems. Some committee members expressed concern for day-to-day operations that UCIT supports when the SIS project team moves to Victory Parkway. Backfill for UCIT employees is being addressed by contractors, bringing back retirees, and students. Gary Grafe will help bridge the technical staff between operations and the SIS project.

### **Data Center Update**

- Dom Ferreri and Nelson provided the update for this since Mary Beth McGrew was not in attendance. The final report is expected in early April. The short-term plan is to put a hot site for disaster recovery and business continuity in the new building located on the UC Blue Ash campus. The mid-term plan is to partner with UC Health to build a shared data center. Nelson praised Mary Beth, Megan Pfaltzgraff, and the rest of the Data Center Task Force for creating a pragmatic, scalable and affordable plan.

### **Connection to OARnet/Internet2 100Gbps Network**

- Case Western and Ohio State are connected to and are using the OARnet/Internet2 100Gbps network. Completing the UC connection requires the financing of an approximately 0.25-mile fiber run. This network speed capacity will help UC achieve its Third Century goals by advancing Ohio STEM education in the classroom and in the

laboratory. It will open new opportunities for research partnerships between universities and industry, and enhance opportunities to promote commercialization and job growth. The last major network upgrade at UC was in 2000.

- Diana Noelcke's team is working on a roadmap to upgrade the current 1GB to-the-desktop to 10GB. The committee discussed cyber security, restricted data and UC's policies. Nelson has requested additional staffing for OIS to address the increased need for information security

### **Connect the Dots Event**

- This event will be on March 27, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM in TUC Great Hall. The name of the new eLearning ecosystem will be announced. Students, faculty and staff submitted more than 2,000 names to the contest. This is not just a new name for the Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS), but for the whole eLearning environment. A national search is underway for the AVP for eLearning. UCIT's hosting of Blackboard for local schools is dwindling, which will allow more time to focus on the service provided to our own campuses.

### **60 W Charlton Node Room Update**

- Diana Noelcke reported that the loan was approved for \$850,000 over a five year term at 0% interest. The node room will be expanded by 2000 feet. American Tower will use part of that space to extend complete cellular service coverage to the entire Uptown Clifton Campus. The targeted completion date is September 2014.

### **UCIT and AFit Convergence**

- AFit is in the process of merging with UCIT to form a new Client Services unit within UCIT. Dom Ferreri will lead this group as the Assistant Vice President, reporting to Nelson. This new unit will allow UCIT to focus more resources on client services. UCIT and Administration and Finance signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) that provides services for Administration and Finance. A new Service Management position is being advertised now.

### **eLearning Committee Update**

- Chris Edwards said Faculty Senate is forming an eLearning Taskforce Committee that will work collaboratively with the eLearning Governance Committee.
- The eLearning Committee also established a new LMS subcommittee. It will have two members from Faculty Senate IT; three members from the eLearning Committee; and four members from UCIT.
- A temporary LMS Negotiating Committee is also being formed to be involved with the negotiations with Blackboard, Inc. UC is expecting to spend approximately \$500,000 on Blackboard products and services in the next year.
- Chris provided a recap of the February 21 eLearning Retreat. The five subcommittees developed a three-year strategic plan and are working on a plan to keep momentum going over the summer.

### **IT Managers Committee Update**

- The committee brought in a vendor to look at technical training opportunities. David Key from Purchasing also attended the meeting and will work with IT managers to combine their training dollars for departments interested in training. Dell also gave a presentation that focused on tablet technology. They will provide UC with a matrix of tablet options with pricing and return at a later date to review the full line of Dell products.
- The committee also reviewed proposed changes to the Wireless Stipend Policy that pertains to cell phones.
- A small committee is working on a matrix for desktop standards for Dell computers to run UC enterprise applications. They will have it ready for preview and approval for the IT Council by the April 8 meeting.
- Box.net will be offered for cloud storage, primarily for non-restricted student data and ad hoc group storage. This will replace the need for using the less secure Dropbox product. The on-campus secure mass storage solution from RoundTower will be finalized this week. The cost will be 4 cents per GB per month. UC needs to do a better job of educating students about what is restricted data and where to store it.

### **Research & Development Committee Update**

- Nelson provided the update in Mark Faulkner's absence. UCIT submitted an NSF grant for connecting to the 100GB network.
- Mark is inviting David Linger, UCRI, to join the R&D Committee.

### **Core Services and Shared Infrastructure**

- The committee is continuing to refine the Architecture Principles and will have it ready for IT Council review in the next few months.
- Anton Harfmann provided background on the issues around Adobe Creative Cloud Licensing. Adobe changed their software licensing strategy, moving from a version-based concurrent use model to a subscription-based model. This new model is cheaper for students (\$29 per license) but prohibitively expensive for colleges and faculty. In some cases, it would increase the college's cost tenfold. Recently Adobe sent out another communication that indicated additional changes are pending. With all the changes, colleges don't know what to expect for the three years of this contract. The total minimum number of licenses needed for all colleges is 1270. At \$29 per month per seat, the combined annual cost would be \$441,960. Amin Shafie, UCIT, has been aggressively negotiating with Adobe to obtain campus-wide solution at a better price. To date, the negotiations have resulted in a proposal from Adobe to provide seats of the Creative Cloud (CC) titles as a percentage of the total FTE computers on campus. The summary of Adobe's most recent three-year contract is as follows:

YR1	YR2	YR3	TCV
100 Acrobat & 25% CC \$168,350.00	100 Acrobat & 27.5% CC \$180,505.00	100% Acrobat & 30% CC \$192,660.00	\$ 541,515.00

After a fair amount of discussion and input from the members of the IT Managers and Core Services Committees, they propose that UC commit to one-time funding for the three-year contract amount of \$541,515 as a bridge, while the CIOs for universities across the state pursue a more comprehensive negotiation. This will also buy three years of stability while UC and Adobe adjust to the new licensing strategy and will allow our campus to develop a sustainable funding model for the future acquisition of the software as well. The two committees believe this strategy is in the best interest of the university and is consistent with the goals set forth by the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

After the IT Council reviewed and discussed it, Nelson asked that a plan B proposal be developed as well that would include current funding from the colleges. Bill Ball suggested that the committee define this need in terms of our Third Century goals and involve the Council of Deans, AVPs and take it to the Efficiency Council.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

---

- **Review of Old Action Items**
  - Mark Faulkner is in the process of developing a template for university community members to submit issues to the IT Governance Committees.
  
- **New Action Items**
  - UCIT – Request an audit of all college-owned classrooms that have AV/IT equipment in them for developing an ITIE funding model/mechanism that resources and creates an equipment replacement cycle in all UC Classrooms.
  - Core Services and IT Managers Committees – Develop a plan B proposal for funding Adobe Create Cloud License three year contract.
  - Diana Noelcke – Provide a current state of the university’s network design along with the proposed UCScience Network design
  - Diana Noelcke – Provide a five year network capital forecast

## **ADJOURNMENT**

---

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.