IT at UC Governance

Research & Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date:	Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Time:	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Location:	University Hall, Room 420B (Collaboration Space)

Present: Behrad Bagheri, Rich Beck, Kristen Burgess, Bruce Burton, Adam Chekour, Chris Collins, Jane Combs, Brett Harnett, Matt Hartman, Michal Kouril, John Kennedy, CJ Kim, Phil Taylor, John Wallrodt

Guests: Paul Foster, Director of Technology, Center for Excellence in eLearning

Apologies: Ted Baldwin, Steven Doehler, David Linger, Elaine Miller, Michael Richardson, Kurt Roberts, Larry Schartman, Jane Strasser, Leslie Schick, Xia Wang

1. **Old Business (update on Action Items from previous meeting)**

   - **UCScienceNet Expansion RFP – Bruce Burton:** RFP has been released, sent out via E-Currents and relevant listservs. Preliminary interest expressed by Environmental Health, UC Libraries & Scholar@UC, CECH, and Geography. Proposals due April 29, 2016.

   - **Cyberinfrastructure Engineer & Educator (CI2E) position – Jane Combs:** Position has been posted on Success Factors. Responsibilities include managing UCScienceNet (network engineering), outreach and education for researchers, and interface to Ohio Super Computer Center. Search Committee includes the Advisory Committee from the original UCScienceNet grant.

   - **Ohio Super Computer Center cluster specs – Jane Combs:** UC is negotiating with OSCC on services and needs related to the new cluster, partnering with UC Libraries on needs assessment for data management and HPC services at UC (see below) to inform negotiations.

Research & Development Committee

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Adam Chekour
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David Linger
Elaine Miller
Michael Richardson
Kurt Roberts
Larry Schartman
Leslie Schick
Jane Strasser
Phil Taylor
John Wallrodt
Xia Wang

Graduate and Undergraduate students
Behrad Bagheri (G)

Meeting Schedule:
2nd Tuesday of the month

May 10, 2016

2. **Learning Management System (LMS) Taskforce Presentation - Guest Speaker: Paul Foster, Center for Excellence in eLearning**

- As an outcome of the eLearning Strategic Planning Committee, the Learning Management System (LMS) Taskforce will be performing a market survey of LMS providers to explore options. The taskforce has broad representation and will be working through IT Governance and Integrated Decision Making processes.

- The Taskforce was Initially formed to explore the possibility of moving from self-hosted Blackboard service to a SaaS solution hosted by Blackboard, however, changes in Blackboard's leadership and management, as well as concerns about their timelines and roadmap for future releases, prompted the taskforce to reach consensus that a broader market survey is warranted. A strategy to move forward has been presented to IT Managers, eLearning, and other IT Governance committees, and Faculty Senate IT Committee.

- Many regional and peer institutions have already made the move away from Blackboard, many to Instructure Canvas. The taskforce is in communication with these institutions to learn from their transition experience, getting copies of their rubrics, etc.

- Brett Harnett asked, if so many of our peers have already made the switch to Canvas, can we learn from their experience and move more swiftly in making a decision? Paul replied that the taskforce feels it is critically important for faculty, the instructional design community, and governance to be fully involved in the process, particularly since we may have requirements that are different than other institutions. Paul also feels that once the process gets going, it may accelerate organically, but we need a real consensus among all the relevant stakeholders.

- Will be recruiting a faculty co-chair for the taskforce. Additional representation is needed from researchers, UC Libraries, Risk Management, and InfoSec. Want to be broadly inclusive in the decision making process.

- Blackboard contract is up in 2017 with options for an additional two years. The LMS Taskforce expects to take time to reach consensus and then if the decision is made to make a transition, a good transition plan will be required. Looking at 3 to 5 years cost of ownership analysis. Faculty will be the largest component of the taskforce, and students and faculty will be deeply involved in any pilots.

- Q: Are open source options being considered? A: They are including Moodle and Sakai in the survey.

- OARNet is in the process of negotiating pricing with Blackboard for a state contract, Chris Edwards is working with OARNet, and any pricing discounts will be factored into the considerations. Will potentially lower our costs for Blackboard in the meantime.

- Paul invited representation from the R&D committee, the Office of Research, and other stakeholders who should be involved in the process.

3. **TriNetX: New Clinical Research Cohort Inquiry System – Brett Harnett**
   - Brett Harnett demonstrated a new clinical research cohort inquiry system called TriNetX that is a new resource available to all UC researchers. CoM and UC Health currently use an open source repository that includes over 140 institutions. This new system complements the existing system and is being funded by pharmaceutical companies to help streamline the process to recruit patient cohorts for clinical studies, particularly where the patient populations are small and must be recruited from many institutions.

   - The TriNetX system only includes de-identified data, no PHI, from 1.2 million patients from 25 different institutions and represents a new approach to federated patient queries. Allows researchers to query the system for patient cohorts by disease/pathology diagnostic criteria, demographic characteristics, medications, lab results, and they are working to integrate procedures performed. Results are displayed graphically and query info can be downloaded. (Not data! Only counts/aggregate numbers. Data never leaves the system.) For example, a query for patients with Parkinson's can be explored for cohort size and statistics, comorbidities, what medications have been prescribed and in what time frames, and lab values. In addition, queries support AND, OR, NOT logic.

   - Great resource for UC researchers to explore hypothesis generation and to get statistics for grant proposals, in addition to recruiting for clinical trials. Training sessions will be scheduled through CCTST in the upcoming months, primarily to help people understand the metadata (what it does and does not mean) to minimize false correlations. For example, medications prescribed data is not yet well standardized, and researchers will need to understand the limitations of that data. Also looking into more dynamic export from EPIC to populate the database more quickly, currently monthly updates and want to move to weekly, but have to balance the overhead involved in pre-processing the data.

   - System is still being implemented, more information and training sessions will be announced in the coming months. Please send inquiries for more information to brett.harnett@uc.edu.

4. **UC Libraries Research Services: Data Management & HPC Needs Survey – Kristen Burgess**
   - Kristen Burgess gave an update on the Data Management & HPC Needs survey that is being sent out via UC Libraries this week, with collaboration from IT@UC Research & Development. Survey is being sent to a broad audience (not just research faculty) to assess campus-wide needs for data management, preservation, and sharing services, as well as needs for High Performance Computing (HPC) services. The survey has received IRB approval and will inform future services that may be offered by UC Libraries and IT@UC, as well provide useful information for negotiations with the Ohio Super Computer Center regarding their new cluster. Committee had lengthy discussion about what data management means to different populations and who should be targeted for the survey. Kristen invited feedback before the survey is sent out.

5. **Office of Research Update – Phil Taylor**
   - Office of Research issued $100k internal RFP for interdisciplinary research proposals and they received a number of competitive proposals. Each proposal has involvement from at least 3 collaborating PIs representing both East and West campuses, and cover a wide range of topics including sensors, water, medical device development, psychology "sit to stand", and even on the collapse of the ancient Maya. A handful of other proposals that didn't quite make it past the

pre-proposal stage may also receive a smaller amount of seed funding to help kickstart those projects for future funding opportunities.

- The Office of Research is also exploring creating short YouTube videos on topics of interest for "just in time" research support, the first will cover *How to Secure Cost-Share Support*. Phil asked for additional ideas for creative ways to provide training topics to researchers and to encourage more team science. Chris Collins suggested that topics should be chunked into 10 minute or less videos so researchers can find answers to specific questions easily. Other initiatives on the docket are working on a communications strategy, redesign of the Office of Research website, and to work more effectively with UCRI. A grant writing workshop will be offered again this fall and upcoming grant writing workshops will be taking place in the next few weeks.

Follow-Up Items

- **Chris Collins –** Re-send UCScienceNet Expansion RFP document
- **Paul Foster –** Forward Gartner reports on LMS market analysis
- **Brett Harnett –** Forward more information about TriNetX training sessions when scheduled
- **Kristen Burgess –** Share Data Management & HPC Needs survey for feedback
- **All –** Provide feedback to Kristen before survey is sent out

Adjournment

- The committee adjourned at 2:29 PM. Minutes submitted by Chris Collins.