

Minutes of the Academic Computing and Electronic Communication Committee

November 14, 2013, 10:30 AM, Governor's Room, KU Memorial Union

Present: Perry Alexander, Paul Espinosa, Paul Farran (Ex-officio), Laura Green, Sam Lamb, Jeremy Martin, Sara Morris (Chair), Jane Rosenthal (Ex-officio), Allison Reeve

- 1) Introduction of members and guests
 - a) Attendees introduced themselves.
- 2) Committee Overview
 - a) Morris presented an overview of the committee, stressing that some of this year's "Specific Charges" require more action than just reporting current status.
- 3) Updates
 - a) Charge 1: Update on Changing for Excellence (CFE) and Bold Aspirations
 - i) Paul Farran distributed "Changing For Excellence: Status Report, Nov. 14, 2013" a document created by KU Information Technology (Lawrence) and KU Information Resources (KU MED). IT leadership from both campuses shared the confidential document that morning with University Leadership. The purpose of CFE was to generate savings that would be redirected to implement Bold Aspirations. This report highlighted actions to-date and savings.
 - ii) Farran reviewed the CFE Initiatives and provided a progress report of each.
 - (1) Reorganize and Redefine IT—Phase 2 @ 45 % completion
 - (a) Focused on standardizing responsibilities. Various positions from across campus were changed to reporting and funding lines from IT. Newly established Technology Support Centers have brought employees with similar skills together.
 - (2) Server Centralization and virtualization—Phase 2 @ 35% completion
 - (a) Focused on moving or virtualizing servers from across campus to one central location or platform. Once relocated they are under the care/maintenance of IT.
 - (3) Increase use of MFDs--@ 99% Completion
 - (a) Focused on decreasing the use and costs associated with desk-top printers. Centrally negotiated contracts for MFDs resulted in departments only being responsible for the cost of paper and the MFD lease. Use of MFDs in public labs has significantly decreased waste.
 - (4) Leverage Software Purchasing--Completed
 - (a) Created a coordinated effort across all campuses to collectively purchase software.
 - (5) Network Optimization—Phase 1 @90% completion
 - (a) Focused on making it easier for KU Med and KU Lawrence to communicate and share computer resources. The first phase centered on eliminating overlapping IP address and creating a direct network connection between Lawrence and KU Med.
 - (6) Single Identity Management System—Phase 1 @ 55% completion
 - (a) Establishing one single identity management system for all KU campuses. Current efforts are concentrating on eliminating duplicate identities on the two campuses.
 - iii) Morris opened the floor to comments/suggestions.
 - (a) Perry Alexander raised issues related to the current naming configuration process. The "A123B123" mechanism isn't something students or staff/faculty want to use.

Alexander suggested that KU decide which types of technology commodities KU IT needs to provide.

- (b) Jeremy Martin stressed that members of the campus community find alternative tools (i.e. Dropbox) that are easier to use than those supported by KU. He mentioned that use of these non-KU technologies result in compromised security. Alexander reiterated that it is common practice for individuals to pay for software/applications that operate better than KU-supported resources. Alexander also iterated that KU IT has made significant progress in the last few years.
 - (c) Paul Espinosa mentioned that KU was in the process of implementing Microsoft Lync. This PC to PC communication software will assist in collaboration. It is currently being used by KU IT and will be slowly rolled out to the rest of KU in the spring.
 - (d) Farran stated that IT is working on eliminating network fees, which are currently billed to departments, but usually included in initial budget allocations. Discussion ensued concerning why KU had used this method.
 - (e) Laura Green brought up that the current method of assigning KU Online IDs is challenging for new faculty. Because IDs can't be assigned until they have completed the onboarding with HR, they are unable to utilize KU email and resources prior to their arrival on campus. Many are also are not aware they can create an alias for their assigned Online ID. Green stated that there was a campus committee working to modify this process.
 - (f) Alexander mentioned that giving up mail extensions for units was problematic. He stated that many of his colleagues at other institutions had e-mails that identified their affiliation—an important aspect of professional identity. Martin raised the same issue. In the Math Department those who already have math.ku.edu email get to keep it, but incoming departmental members will not. Martin saw this as a disadvantage for those joining the department.
 - (g) Espinosa explained that anyone with unit.ku.edu address will continue to receive mail at that address. For the new identity management system to provide these types of addresses would require writing new software and it was decided not to do this.
 - (h) Alexander brought up the fact that opportunity costs are not mentioned in any discussion concerning CFE. He stated that while financial costs have gone down, many on campus have experienced high opportunity costs as a result of these new practices.
 - (i) Alexander noted that the centralization of servers has had a positive outcome.
- b) Charge 2: Update on Ubiquitous Wireless
- i) Farran noted that progress can be monitored at this website: <http://technology.ku.edu/wifi-expansion>. He stated that after focusing on academic buildings, wireless is being updated in other types of facilities, as well as outside areas of campus.
 - ii) Alexander asked for increased options to decrease the use of paper on campus.
- c) Charge 5: Update on One Campus and One Network
- i) Morris asked if the material covered in CFE report covered this topic sufficiently. The committee agreed.

- 4) Discussion on how to proceed with action charges.
 - a) Charge 2: Better Accommodations for Researchers
 - i) Alexander stated that since he had not heard any concerns on this issue he assumes it is going well. Farran stated that one challenge with this is that IT support has to have specialized skills and they are currently hiring for positions to support research computing.
 - ii) Alexander stated that one huge problem is archival file storage and that many on campus are set to violate new federal mandates for data management plans.
 - iii) Alexander stated that he believes the most important thing to improve accommodations for researchers is to include researchers in the planning process. He believes that IT and researchers must work together to determine what is that needed and wanted. Discussion ensued. Morris stated that data is far more than large data sets. Depending on the discipline, the need for data retention differs. Martin mention that some individuals on campus need high quantities of computer power, but only for short time. Plans need to address these various needs. It was decided that governance's roll in this matter is to push for those on campus who are affected to "a seat at the table."
 - b) Charge 4: Elevating Rights of Users
 - i) Due to time limitations Morris gave a brief overview of this issue. She suggested those who needed additional information consult previous ACEC minutes and reports.
 - ii) Martin stated that raising the rights of users is an aspect of better accommodations for researchers.
 - iii) Farran and Espinosa gave a brief overview of a program in the School of Business. This program had been highlighted at the spring ACEC meeting. After discussion it was concluded that the program in the Business School might be a solution that can be applied wider on campus. Morris will contact governance officials and the chair of Faculty Rights Board Privileges and Responsibilities about this program.
- 5) Adjournment
 - a) The meeting concluded at noon.