MINUTES
IT Advisory Committee Meeting
September 24, 2009
8:30-10:00 AM

Present: Dr. Stephen Balfour, Lauri Brender, Dr. Becky Carr, Jim Boaz, Dr. Fred Fisher, Dr. Henrik Schmiediche, David Sweeney, Ron Szabo, Lacey Baze, Allison Oslund, Jeff McCabe, Willis Marti, TJ Williams

Item 1: Google Apps

A. Background.
   - Google is making a private cloud for the federal government, and hopes states will follow.
   - Google uses a dashboard to communicate outages and problems with its customers. It only wants to deal with admins, so HDC would be first line of support for average users.
   - DIR currently makes Google Apps appropriate for students.
   - There is a question about whether Google Apps meets the state’s laws regarding ownership of data.
     - T.J. said he would have his legal talk with Willis regarding this issue.
   - Currently, three Texas A&M departments use Google, but NIS does not encourage it.

B. Google Apps Benefits.
   - A Forester survey found the cost of on-premise email is $302/user/year.
   - Google slowly rolls out changes so user isn’t faced with a drastic change.
   - Admins can decide whether to take advantage of upgrades or not.
   - Frees up administrator’s time.
   - Fast search capabilities.
   - Better collaboration and more native sharing.
   - 95 percent of students he spoke with at Texas A&M use Gmail.

B. Google Apps Options.
   - **Google Apps Premier**
     - $50/user/year
     - Maybe a good candidate for faculty and staff.
     - Instant messaging, video and voice chat (one-to-one)
     - Shared and personal calendars
     - Docs - Simple, real-time document collaboration (keeps all revision history)
     - Web sites - 10 GB + .5 GB per user of pooled domain storage (easily created and edited group pages) (Allows users to build web sites on their own)
     - Video – 3 GB per user of pooled domain storage, securely share internal videos and choose who has viewing access
     - Message security – Anti-spam and virus filtering, protect email from malware and manage content policies
     - Web security- block web-based security threats and manage web access
     - Message discoveries – archive search and retrieve for email discovery
     - Message encryption – encrypt sensitive emails based on polices and content
     - GLook – Syncs email with Outlook, now available
       - TJ will see whether they support 64-bit OS since many IT professionals on campus use it.
     - G-Drive – This feature will leverage their cloud to store and share documents.
   - **Education Version.**
     - Less storage and less support.
     - Good candidate for students.
     - Current customers include ACU, USC, Notre Dame, Georgia, and more.
Item 2:  Work from Home Resources
A. Allison presented Texas A&M IT’s Work from Home resources guide.
   o http://it.tamu.edu/Work_from_Home_Resources.php
B. Committee Feedback/Suggestions
   • Include minimum technology requirements users will need to be able to work from home.
   • Ask the users to speak with their IT support person before using encryption. There is a concern that some users will encrypt files and forget their passwords, etc.
   • Some departments have computers specifically dedicated to remote desktop, but only a few. In a real crisis, this would not work since someone has to be there to make sure the computer is on and there aren’t enough for everyone.

Item 3: “Major Application” Definition
A. Changes.
   • Jeff changed the parts of the definition as suggested by the ITAC.

Item 4: IPC
   • Henrik sent out the minutes from the last meeting.
   • Feedback should be submitted to Henrik before 2 p.m., September 24.

Item 5: Announcements
   • CAS3 is now live. CAS2 will be removed on January 11.
   • Alison Winslow (CIS) is currently working on a mission is to develop a major application scheme that will provide useful tools.