MINUTES
IT Advisory Committee Meeting
March 26, 2009
8:30-10:00 AM

Present: Jim Culver, Dave Jennings, Dr. Becky Carr, Ron Szabo, Dr. Henrik Schmiediche, David Sweeney, Kirk Hausman, Jim Rosser, Lauri Brender, Allison Oslund, Lacey Baze, John Rauser, Willis Marti, Myron Walden, Peter Walsh, Jeff McCabe

Item 1: IPC Update
A. New wireless access SAP
   • Must be a certain level of encryption for wireless access.
   • WPA and WPA2 will be used exclusively after September 1, 2010 with VPN as a fallback.
   • Does not address whether UINs are sensitive information.
   • NIS buildings have encrypted wireless signals.
B. New SAP to define data classifications and protection levels
   • The State wants us to define data classifications so rules can be created.
   • The committee data classifications included mission critical information, public information, sensitive information, public information, special information, university data and confidential information.

Item 2: Data Center Presentation
A. John Rauser gave the committee a brief history of the data center and infrastructure improvements since the building was constructed in 1996.
   • Currently, there are 31,000 square feet of energy space being used on campus.
B. Problems/Challenges
   • Aging infrastructure with limited floor space
   • Vulnerable to outside influences affecting power and chilled water
   • Tier 2 center with 22 hours of annual downtime with several single components (no backup)
   • Physical security- There are ways to enter Teague data center without being seen or challenged. CIS is working on a solution for this.
   • There are issues with equipment delivery, storage, staging and meeting space.
D. Off-Site Data Center
   • Teague data center is almost maxed, so CIS needs to find another location. If another data center is used, Teague will still be used as well.
   • Verizon building in downtown Bryan has two floors of space that CIS could buy or lease.
   • Verizon would maintain the infrastructure and security of the space.
   • Since Verizon is a telephone company, they have priority service in a disaster. They also have fuel storage for their generators.
   • Potential to become a centralized data center for Texas A&M University that could save large amounts of money.
   • Concerns: Rates for a 3-tier data center would be too expensive for departments, especially because their servers don’t require this level of facility. CIS could turn one of the floors of the Verizon building into a 2-tier data center and continue to use the Teague 2-tier data center, which would allow them to charge lower rates.
   • Several members of the committee said that would be okay if the University required them to purchase certain types of energy-efficient machines if they had time (3-5 years) to put it into their budget.
E. Back up services
Willis Marti is finalizing a contract with a facility in Dallas that will provide life support (not recovery) for the campus in a disaster.
A recovery facility is not practical at this time.

**Item 3: IT Administrator Committee Update**

A. **Review of current site**
   - The committee asked their staff to review the current Admin site and give their feedback.
   - **Overview:** Web site is not effective. There is no compelling reason to use the site. Admins will continue to seek their information from other resources such as pre-existing listservs, already established campus Web site, or a search engine like Google.
   - A copy of the report will be placed on the SharePoint site.

B. **Committee Suggestions**
   - Admins site should be housed in a neutral location (not on CIS or VPAPIT site).
   - Young IT professionals like two-way communication such as a Wiki, but older IT professionals prefer documentation and the ability to comment, but not change the documentation.
   - Committee members would like to see sample ISAAC forms on the site to help them fill out paperwork.
   - Committee thought a good solution was to pre-populate a Wiki with documentation and allow someone to add comments below it.
   - Allison Oslund will present plans for an IT site at an upcoming meeting.

**Item 4: Announcements**

A. **Portable device survey will be sent out Thursday, March 26.**
B. **Burton group presentation has been postponed until June.**