IT Advisory Committee Meeting – November 14th, 2013

In Attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Regular Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Stephen Balfour</td>
<td>Kevin Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Bland</td>
<td>Juan Garza</td>
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<td>Aaron Brender</td>
<td>X Mark Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erick Beck</td>
<td>X John Kovacavich</td>
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<tr>
<td>X Becky Carr</td>
<td>X Alan Kirk</td>
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<tr>
<td>X Bill Chollett</td>
<td>X Tom Lyster</td>
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<td>X Jim Culver</td>
<td>X Adam Mikeal</td>
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Also in Attendance: Mark Stone, Debra Dandridge, Arielle Carchidi, Ethel Vaught (minute recorder), Bing Wei (for Mike Nelson)

Item 1: Approval of 10-24-13 Minutes

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Item 2: Announcements

Update on Email Advisory Committee – Allison Oslund

The committee, chaired by Dr. Cantrell, met for the first time yesterday, November 13. Adam Mikeal and Andy Bland are the ITAC representatives. The ITAC email consolidation recommendation was presented by Stephen Balfour. Key considerations included data storage, especially off-shore storage by Google, eDiscovery and confidential data security. The second meeting will take place on Monday, November 18, to continue discussing key considerations, costs and a central funding option.

CAG CIS Assessment – Allison Oslund and Willis Marti

The Columbia Advisory Group will assess Computing & Information Services for the purpose of providing shared services to the A&M System as a Center of Excellence. Meetings with CIS will take place in the coming days. The report will be complete by the end of December.

Windows XP End of Life – Willis Marti

Microsoft is ending support for Windows XP next spring. After this time, Networking & Information Security will no longer approve Windows XP machines on the campus network. Henrik Schmiediche asked about visiting researchers bringing XP devices and how NIS will determine exceptions.
Communication to end users is being crafted and NIS will be contacting people who have XP systems (~600 people). Research devices not connected to the network will not be affected.

**Item 3: IT Trends**
The Economics department is testing a SASS cloud option.

The University Libraries introduced ORCID, which provides individual research IDs.

Architecture is working on academic licensing for GitHub and Confluence, which would be available to faculty and students. The services will be CAS authenticated. CIS Infrastructure is providing service space, and licensing costs will be split between users.

The Go Mobile committee is deciding on future direction, which may include providing branded, responsive web templates for Cascade Server, the centrally hosted CMS.

Galveston is working with Cheryl Cato and Tom Golson on authenticating wireless users.

AgriLife is working on a workstation procurement and imaging solution for its locations across the state. SmartDeploy lets you image up to 60 systems simultaneously in 15 minutes. Performing procurement and imaging centrally will significantly save time and money.

**Item 4: IT Career Family**
Joseph Garcia from Mindstream provided an overview on IT career ladder changes, which the company will be recommending to the A&M chancellor. The project encompasses reorganizing and standardizing job titles, descriptions and pay ranges to provide consistency and improve recruitment. This recommendation will cover all non-faculty positions, not just IT. The proposal will go to HR and IT leaders first for a couple weeks of feedback. Once standards are set they will set pay ranges – minimum, average, maximum. Plan distribution is expected November 15th.

**Item 4: PolicyHub**
Debra Dandridge reviewed experiences of using PolicyHub for reviewing SAP changes. The usage was high. Issues included browser compatibility (Firefox on a Mac) and difficulties navigating the interface. There was some confusion about whether or not adding comments meant "I accept without comment." Debra will send an email a day before comments close to remind people to review the document. Could PolicyHub be used more widely as SAP review moves up the chain of command? Texas A&M IT pays for a set number of licenses, and the agreement is for three years. Going forward, the review period will start on a Friday and last two weeks.

After reviewing comments, the application security SAP may not have addressed all of concerns voiced by members. A new committee will be formed to review the SAP.

Alison Winslow presented information about the SAP related to project management. The definition of a major project will be revamped. The draft says a major project costs $100,000 or takes >200 hours of effort to complete. It was noted that the current SAP focuses on applications, so many infrastructure projects can't be considered major. There was much discussion of research projects, which often exceed 200 hours of effort. The committee needs to consider the SAP's impact to research projects. Debra urged members to add their comments in PolicyHub.
Item 5: Sub-Committees
Service Desk - Alan Kurk
The committee met twice to define challenges and scope of work. The Sirius group gave a presentation about their services. The committee will meet again on Monday.

Software – Becky Carr
The draft report is being circulated for review. CIS business people are working on a cost analysis.

Strategic Vision – Adam Mikeal
The first meeting will take place on Monday. A lot of preparatory work has been completed, so we may only need one meeting. Keep the morning of November 21 open for an ITAC meeting to discuss.

Item 6: Open Discussion
Michelle Osterholm will be moving to another position. David Sweeney may be able to provide a student worker to take meeting minutes.

The College of Liberal Arts is negotiating a site license for Stata statistical software. If you are interested, contact Stephen Balfour.

John Kovacevich at Galveston was asked to review change in the SAP about phone monitoring. It would make reviewing employee long-distance calls from "shall" to "must". The SAP change came from Finance.