

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (SCIT)
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2011

[In these minutes: Committee on Committee's Review of SCIT Charge, IT Implications for New NSF Mandates on Archiving Data, Agenda Items for 2011 – 2012, Vice President and Chief Information Officer Search Update, Ex-Officio Rep on Library Committee]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Ted Higman, chair, Benton Schnabel, Sue Van Voorhis, Noel Phillips, John Butler, Ann Hill Duin, Billie Wahlstrom, David Arendale, Sean Conner, Yuk Sham, Mary Vavrus, Bonnie Westra

REGRETS: Allison Jacobsen, James McDonald, Brent Larson, Shashi Shekhar, Myron Lowe

GUESTS: Janet Fransen, engineering librarian, and Lisa Johnston, research services librarian

I). Professor Higman called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and called for introductions.

II). The committee's charge was distributed to members for their review. Professor Higman reported that Committee on Committees is in the process of reviewing Senate committee charges. He noted that representatives from Committee on Committees would be attending an upcoming SCIT meeting to discuss with members whether they believe the charge should be modified or whether it is sufficient as written. With that said, he asked members to start thinking about whether any changes should be proposed.

Professor Sham asked if members can nominate people to fill the vacant seats on the committee. Professor Higman stated that nominations are welcome and can be sent to him or Renee Dempsey, Senate staff.

III). Professor Higman introduced the next agenda item, IT implications for new NSF mandates on archiving data. He welcomed today's guests, Janet Fransen, engineering librarian, and Lisa Johnston, research services librarian.

Ms. Johnston began by distributing a handout, which outlined the Library's overarching goals related to the new NSF requirement that all new grant applications include a data management plan detailing how the anticipated research data will be shared, archived and

preserved. Next, she walked members through the Library's goals associated with this project, which include:

- Providing training and outreach opportunities to help researchers manage, preserve, and share their data. For example, the Library is offering a "Creating a Data Management Plan Workshop" as well as having a "Managing Your Data" website that gives examples of how to write a successful data management plan, and advice on depositing data in subject-specific data repositories for long-term preservation.
- Providing data archiving services and metadata services. By responding to and collaborating with strategic partners to develop the infrastructure for research data preservation and dissemination, the Libraries will help position the University to meet the demands of 21st century scholarship.

Ms. Johnston then highlighted the five questions that need to be answered in a data management plan:

1. What kind of data is being used?
2. What back-up solution should be used?
3. How can the data be shared outside a given discipline?
4. Should the data be made available to the public and for how long?
5. How can the data be made available for long-term access and who will manage the data set for this access?

Ms. Fransen added that it is important to keep in mind that there is a breadth of data across the institution. Data isn't only numbers, but rather it could be computer code/software, for example, or whatever kind of data that allows an experiment to be recreated.

A member asked about the cost of archiving data and whether NIH and NSF will pay for this cost. In addition, what data archiving resources are available to faculty? Ms. Johnston noted that the Libraries are offering consultation services to teach faculty how to write a data management plan. She noted that it is important to keep in mind, however, that there may not necessarily be a structure in place at the University to be able to enact their plan. The Libraries are very interested in working with OIT and the Office of the Vice President for Research to identify where support exists and where structures need to be put in place to help faculty archive their data. Interim Vice President and CIO Ann Hill Duin noted that a Research Data Assistance Center (<http://www.resdac.org/>) has been created and works collaboratively with the IT leadership alliance. Ed Deegan, director, AHC Information Systems, has been instrumental in working on this effort, noted Interim VP Hill Duin and suggested this as a possible agenda item for an upcoming meeting.

Professor Westra stated that she is working on a large NIH grant, which requires absolute coordination of efforts across the University related to storage of research data, etc. With that said, she stated that it will be extremely important to not have duplication of efforts across the institution. Mr. Butler stated that there are infrastructure and data management efforts that need to be coordinated. The infrastructure aspect will be a fundamental

building block of these efforts. Professor Westra stated that it will be in the University's best interest to make sure all the different pieces are connected to avoid assumptions about what is and is not included.

Regarding the cost of data management, noted Ms. Johnston, NSF allows researchers to build into their grants the costs associated with having a data management plan in the grant. Professor Sham stated that thought needs to be given to what happens at the end of a grant, will the institution permanently store the research data? Ms. Johnston stated that while the institution may store the data, there are really a lot of different options, e.g., publish the research data as a supplement to a journal article, or publish it in a data repository.

Tracking data changes, noted Professor Sham, is also a very important consideration. Ms. Johnston stated that this is covered in the Library's data management workshop. Currently, there are inconsistencies across the different schools in terms of tracking these changes. Best practices should be developed and shared. Professor Sham added that data management using commercial enterprise solutions can be very expensive. Ms. Johnston stated that there is a lot of interest on the part of faculty about different data management systems in the marketplace, some of which are open-source. Mr. Butler added that there are definitely disciplinary differences in terms of data management requirements.

Ms. Johnston stated that another frequent question from faculty has to do with not sharing data. There are a number of ways that researchers can create a data management plan without making the data open (embargo process or restricted access). Restricted access, however, is not in the spirit of the NSF data management requirement, which was built around the NSF's data sharing policy. Disciplinary differences often dictate whether data will be shared. From another perspective, noted Mr. Butler, is the concern about making data sets more usable, available, and discoverable to the broader community. The Libraries, therefore, are supporting certain forms of local development of data archives and long-term preservation services in addition to working with national repositories and leveraging existing resources. The Library's goal is to provide support services that will allow data that is generated to be well prepared for ingest into larger repositories. Data management preparation is needed to coordinate with these larger efforts.

Professor Higman thanked Ms. Fransen and Ms. Johnston for their presentation and noted that this topic may also be of interest to the Library Committee.

IV). Next, Professor Higman engaged members in a discussion about what topics the committee is interested in taking up this year. He began by sharing information about what the committee worked on last year. From this discussion, members agreed they would like to explore:

- Additional cloud storage for faculty use. Learn about the local bulk storage initiative as well as data center storage work that is underway.
- OIT budget update (December or after).
- Update on University's Strategic Sourcing Program. In addition, hear how prices are negotiated between Purchasing Services and vendors? Why don't

University's prices drop after a period of time like they do in the marketplace?
Support services for products need to be factored into the equation.

- Continued discussion concerning the impact of technology on student performance and teaching with mobile technology.
- Unnecessary expenses for students when different colleges and/or departments mandate different hardware requirements.
- Update on Academic Support Resources (ASR) in the Graduate Education Transition Project.
- Noncredit course registration update.
- Update on performance of Science Teaching and Student Services (STSS) building and hear how active-learning classrooms are improving undergraduate education.
- Update on status of the University's video ecosystem capabilities (video conferencing, streaming media, connecting students virtually with or without faculty or video etc.)
- Business Intelligence Project update (spring).
- Update on Google suite of apps (spring).
- Quarterly OIT project update.

Professor Higman thanked members for their ideas and encouraged them to let him or Ms. Dempsey know if they think of other possible agenda item topics.

V). Professor Higman reported on the University's search for a vice president and chief information officer. He distributed a draft copy of the job posting for members information. The co-chairs of the search committee are Vice President of Human Resources Kathryn Brown and Rochester Chancellor Steve Lemke. Professor Higman then shared the names of those serving on the search. The search committee has been informed that President Kaler is anxious to get this position filled. An executive search company, Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates, Inc. has been hired to facilitate and expedite the search.

VI). Professor Higman asked for a volunteer from SCIT who would be willing to serve ex-officio on the Library Committee. Hearing no volunteers, Professor Higman agreed to fill this seat and serve ex-officio on the Library Committee.

VII). Hearing no further business, Professor Higman adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate