

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (SCIT)
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 5, 2013

[In these minutes: review of IT priorities; Communities of Practice discussion; future agenda items.]

[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: David Arendale (chair), Sean Conner, Lara Friedman-Shedlov, Bernard Gulachek, Kristin Lamberty, James MacDonald, Noel Schumacher, Benton Schnabel, Tom Shield

OTHERS ATTENDING: Scott Barnard, coordinator, Human Resources

GUESTS: Brad Cohen, ACIO, OIT; Sandra Ecklein, coordinator, Office of the Provost; LeeAnn Melin, director, Office of Undergraduate Education

REGRETS: John Butler, Ted Higman, Yiwen Li, Yuk Sham, Shashi Shekhar, Mary Vavrus

ABSENT: Stephen Levin, Helen Lin, Nolan Shen

WELCOME

Professor Arendale called the meeting to order, welcomed those present, and asked members to introduce themselves.

ENTERPRISE PORTAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Ecklein, Mr. Barnard, and Ms. Melin presented the Enterprise Systems Upgrade Program (ESUP). They distributed a flyer titled “Enterprise Portal Project” and explained that the new portal is the interface that users will interact with when using the PeopleSoft application. Tentatively, the portal will be launched in December 2014. Over the next two months, the Portal Team will gather information during the “plan and discover” phase of the new portal implementation. They want to identify which functions should be included in the new interface that are already available through MyU and those functions that are not available. There will be two business analysts devoted to sorting the list of suggested requirements gathered by the team. They then asked for input from the members regarding their ideas for the new portal:

- In response to a question, Ms. Melin explained that there would be a constant feedback loop to assess what functions are of highest priority.
- The PeopleSoft product will eventually replace the MyU Portal, but it will not be exclusively tied to PeopleSoft. In some cases, it will be able to integrate systems that are not currently accessible through MyU. This will have greater

configuration parameters that will enable it to interface with systems that are outside of PeopleSoft. They cautioned that too much customization is expensive, yet some specialties are necessary.

- Ensure that course lists can be imported to Moodle.
- A technology or professional development course catalog made available to faculty through one interface to display campus trainings and compliance driven trainings. Professor Conner noted that there are legal ramifications for missing certain trainings and a single point of contact would help to prevent confusion. Mr. Cohen added that OVPR might be able to help with compliance driven trainings because not all of the requirements can be satisfied on campus.
- Professor Friedman-Shedlov suggested the ability to set up and customize push-notifications via e-mail or text message.
- Classroom scheduling system tie-in
- HR services and faculty courses will be available through the portal.
- IRB Review Board link
- Purchasing Services
- A member suggested they speak with incoming freshman regarding current functionality and areas to improve. This level of student has least familiarity and therefore a different perspective of the University's functionality.
- Members can visit the Enterprise Portal Project website at: z.umn.edu/portal and email feedback to: umportal@umn.edu.

IT GOVERNANCE INPUT

Mr. Gulachek explained that they are currently beginning the first full cycle of IT governance. Currently they are gathering input broadly from across the University community. A PowerPoint presentation was distributed to members outlining the following topics:

- University of Minnesota IT
 - The FY12 expenditures: \$192M
Mr. Gulachek explained that it is important for IT to guide these investments by gathering a broad spectrum of feedback. Technology exists to support the University's mission in teaching and learning, research, and all other components.
- University of Minnesota IT
 - IT leaders have a "dotted line" accountability to the VP and CIO of OIT in addition to their accountability within collegiate and administrative units.
 - The intent is to align the activities of all the technologists and accomplish the initiatives most valued by the institution.
- Office of Information Technology Expenditure Distribution: \$74M
- Office of Information Technology Expenditures by Service
 - A further breakdown of services funded by the \$74M
- IT Governance at UMN
 - Chart of restructured governance model
 - The governance model is a year and a half into implementation and is constantly evolving.

- The chart depicts the gathering of input, discerning common needs from input, and using this information to make informed decisions. After decisions are made, the entire IT community must carry out the implementation of these decisions in an aligned way. The University should be able to see the result of the investments made on an annual basis. This system was designed to be aligned with institutional processes like budgets, investments, or de-investments but it is not always linear.

Mr. Cohen facilitated the following discussion. He explained that OIT is intending to gather and synthesize feedback across the University to reshape IT investments. He then asked the committee what they see as priorities for students. The conversation will be fully public to ensure that when decisions are made regarding investments, the process is transparent and priorities are shaped by needs expressed by the University community. The formal Communities of Practice will aid in this decision process once the input is gathered. Members were asked for their IT concerns, feedback, and areas that no longer need investment:

- Members discussed the issues that are related to video conferencing and the benefits of different systems. Professor Lamberty commented that video conferencing helps connect coordinate campus members in a more efficient way than conference calls. Members agreed that the investment does not have to be in a high-end system, but it should at least enable use of Google Hangout.
- Currently student fees support faculty computers and lab equipment and they are not replaced according to their life cycles. More funding should be provided for laboratory and faculty machines.
- Mr. Cohen explained that coordinating a solution for storage needs is a complex issue that might involve several options for varying storage needs. Cloud solutions are not currently available for all of the University's storage needs. This process has identified storage as potential priority for IT investment.
- Integrating disparate central systems such as APass, X500, and UCard.
- Mobile-capabilities in general.
- Simpler Payment Card Industry compliance service.

In conclusion, Mr. Gulachek stated that they would like to provide SCIT with the opportunity to provide feedback once the priorities have been identified.

In the interest of time, Professor Arendale adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich
University Senate Office