

## **SCIT Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

11:15 a.m. ~ 12:45 p.m.

Morrill Hall, 238A

[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.]

[In these minutes ~ enhanced security of electronic devices; course management systems]

**Present:** Lee Anderson (chair), Danielle Tisinger, David Arendale, Ted Higman, Craig Gjerdingen, Stephen Cawley, Simin Hickman, Sue Van Voorhis, James MacDonald, John Butler, Ann Hill Duin, Paul Rubenis, Billie Wahlstrom, Michael Korth, Yuk Sham, Dan Garon

**Guest:** Scott Barnard, senior educational technology consultant, Digital Media Center

**Regrets:** Mary Vavrus, Brent Larson, Judd Dudgeon, John Miller, Bonnie Westra, Bernard Gulachek

**Absent:** Brandy Lehto, Myron Lowe, Mark Sanders, Aaron Doering, Ken Hanna

Chair Anderson welcomed the committee members and asked Ms. Hill Duin for her presentation on the Course Management Systems progress.

### **Course Management Systems (CMS) ~ Ann Hill Duin**

Dr. Hill Duin began by introducing Mr. Scott Barnard, co-chair of the CMS analysis workgroup. She informed members that the need for the workgroup came about after being informed that as of January 2013, WebVista would no longer offer technical support. Vice President and CIO Steve Cawley charged the workgroup in May of 2009 to explore and recommend a strategy for the future use of a CMS at the University. After a thorough investigation, the workgroup that included representatives from CEHD, CLA and CSOM recommended to discontinue the WebVista and move to the use of Moodle as the sole CMS.

Hill Duin stated that campus community input was derived in a variety of ways. There were in-person presentations/discussions that took place at the Duluth, Morris and Crookston campuses as well as the IT directors meeting on August 12, 2009; the Council for Undergraduate Education on July 16, 2009 and to the University Technology-Enhanced Learning Leaders on September 16, 2009. They conducted an online survey that included students, faculty and staff; and conducted faculty interviews.

Dr. Hill Duin stated that the workgroup recommended renewing the WebVista license annually through July 2012, per the University's contract. She said they will then install Blackboard Learn 9 on OIT testing servers to analyze the feature set; conduct a gap analysis between WebVista, Blackboard Learn 9, and Moodle to ascertain whether Blackboard Learn 9 meets the

unique needs currently being met by WebVista; develop a CMS implementation strategy through collegiate partnerships across all University campuses; ensure that the course management system(s) that are ultimately chosen are evaluated in the context of how they fit with other supported University tools and the University's overall academic technology infrastructure. Hill Duin informed members that the transition will take time. She added that the workgroup looked briefly at other CMS options but they determined that to transition to an entirely new CMS would be too disruptive for faculty and staff. They also determined that Moodle and Blackboard were as good or better than other available CMS options.

Dr. Hill Duin said the workgroup needed to look at the gap analysis between WebVista (used currently) and Moodle 1.9. Mr. Barnard said the most significant gaps they found were in the areas of:

- Selective release of quizzes and modules
- Anti-plagiarism functionality
- TurningPoint Powerlink
- Group creation tool

Barnard continued, saying that the lack of selective release of quizzes and modules and the TurningPoint Powerlink will be alleviated by the summer of 2012, either by new functionality in Moodle 2, or by a new TurningPoint plug-in. Moodle does not have a comparable Group Creation tool or anti-plagiarism functionality. OIT could not define how much the Group Creation tool is used. Approximately 3,021 students used the anti-plagiarism functionality in WebVista in spring semester, 2009. VP Cawley added that Moodle has a very vibrant, international community and the University would need to make a commitment to join that community. Professor Sham raised concern about the life expectancy of Moodle. VP Cawley said that Moodle is thriving and no one person can discontinue Moodle; it is community-driven. Cawley added that as far as costs go, Moodle would be no more expensive and possibly less expensive than WebVista. He said they are considering the addition of a full-time program developer, which would be a financial commitment. Ms. Hickman relayed her experience with students, many of them requesting a change to Moodle.

Mr. Butler asked if the migration path for transition difficulties has been yet reviewed. VP Cawley said that is still a factor to consider but they have already seen a massive shift in the movement to Moodle in the University community. Cawley added that faculty feedback has been that they would like the transition decision to be made so they can complete the shift and move on. VP Cawley stated that they would like to have the committee's support for this movement. Chair Anderson said that he is not certain the committee is prepared to support the movement at this time. He stated that SCIT has not been fully involved in the progression of the decisions being made up to this point. He continued, saying that with decisions of this size, the committee should be brought into the development early and then continually updated and that has not happened. Dr. Hill Duin pointed out that all of the information regarding the project is online at [www.oit.umn.edu/cms-search](http://www.oit.umn.edu/cms-search). Anderson said it would be good to have information on the transition costs, migration implications and what other colleges are doing in this area. Cawley responded that they are working with Information Technology directors to gather that data. He said they need to put the information into college-specific language to meet the needs

of each college stating what the migration plan is and that is what they are working on now. Chair Anderson thinks changes need to be expressed to the University community, including recommendations on how to ease the transition. Professor Arendale said he would like to support it but they need to have the college-specific plans together to get the full picture. He said he would try to gain feedback from faculty in his unit and forward it to the workgroup and Anderson agreed to do so as well. Ms. Tisinger said they needed to inform the community that WebVista will be gone and give them an opportunity to review their choices. VP Cawley suggested having a task force to gather all information in one document over the summer. Chair Anderson told Cawley that the committee does not meet over the summer. Chair Anderson, Mr. Gjerdingen and Professor Arendale volunteered to serve as the task force over the summer.

### **Securing Private Data ~ Steve Cawley**

Members were given three draft documents for review as follows:

1. Securing private data, computers, and other electronic devices
2. Basic security for computers and other electronic devices
3. Enhanced security for computers and other electronic devices

Vice President and CIO Steve Cawley informed members that the drafts they received today are second drafts and more developed than the first. He went over the policy statement with members, which reads that all University of Minnesota employees must take appropriate steps to secure any private data they create or possess in connection with their University employment. This obligation includes maintaining electronic private data only on University computer systems and securing those computer systems as required by policy. Cawley stated they are migrating University computers to the active directory and they are planning on reducing access to various University links, which is not being well received by some community members. Cawley added that the majority of University computers are compliant in the active directory. Cawley said that one of the concerns that has come up is the need to use software or an application that requires an administrative log-in that is not available at the time of need. He said OIT has ascertained that not more than 50% of University computer users need administrative access and that it will be up to each unit to determine their risk factors and secured site access level. Cawley mentioned that administration is required to run two accounts:

1. Active directory administration; and,
2. Regular security access

He said administration needed to be conscientious about leaving their administrative account open and running when they are not using it. Professor Sham asked if colleges have the right to be exempt from the central active directory. Cawley replied that it would have to be approved by administration.

Cawley said the policy could take as long as two years to fully implement. He said they needed to get the plan in place and be accommodating to local constraints so there are no audit issues. Chair Anderson asked what external influences are driving this change and what opportunity is there for faculty pushback. Cawley responded that they are receiving pushback all of the time.

He continued, stating that OIT has been continually meeting with many units and members of the University community to address their concerns and give updates on progress. He said there is significant risk in this ecosystem and they need to ensure that it will be a strong and secure system. Cawley added that everyone at the University has an obligation to some level of security practice and he thinks this plan is at the minimally acceptable level of security practice and finds it very tolerant. He said a couple areas of concern are the lack of access for those out of the country as well as lack of student access on their personal devices. Cawley stated that there will be more conversations about upcoming changes next fall, including a virtual desktop.

To review the *Securing private data, computers, and other electronic devices* policy in full, please go to: <http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/it/Use/SECUREDATA.html>

To review the *Basic security for computers and other electronic devices* document, please go to: [http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/it/Use/SECUREDATA\\_PROC01.html](http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/it/Use/SECUREDATA_PROC01.html)

To review the *Enhanced security for computers and other electronic devices* document, please go to: [http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/it/Use/SECUREDATA\\_PROC02.html](http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/it/Use/SECUREDATA_PROC02.html)

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Lisa Towry  
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