

RECORD OF ACTIONS

ITAC Meeting

December 11, 2007

Present: Mr. Jay Blaire, Ms. Yolanda Cooper, Mr. Joe Hutchins, Mr. Tim Ramsay, Mr. Fred Robinson, Mr. Stewart Seruya, Mr. Dan Thomas, Dr. Nick Tsinoremas, Mr. William Vilberg, Dr. Rod Zika and Dr. Otis Brown, Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 1605 in the College of Engineering, McArthur Building, Room 289.

1. Record of Actions

The Record of Actions for the November 13, 2007 meeting was approved.

2. Reports

a. Administrative software

D. Thomas provided the report attached as Attachment A (Dated November 30, 2007).

There were a number of changes/enhancements over the past month. New modules for Contract Analysis (*Ariba*) were moved into production. Specifications for the Compensation Project (with HR) were finalized. Web-based Property Accounting was moved into production. Programming is continuing on the Salary Journal Entry Project.

IT has been heavily involved in the employee transition associated with the Cedars Hospital acquisition.

In terms of smaller projects, work continues on *ULearn*, Student Housing, Application for Graduation, Continuous Improvement activities, Data Warehouse applications, etc.

b. Administrative hardware

F. Robinson summarized the report submitted as Attachment B.

DASD space utilization is creeping upwards due to the need to encrypt sensitive information.

Mainframe CPU Utilization went up due to Registration-related activities.

c. Library Systems

Y. Cooper provided a brief update on Library matters. The Library continues to test *UPrint* in the IC and Music Libraries.

There are continuing discussions to merge the Medical and Gables campus holdings under a single server – Spring/Summer '08 for implementation.

The Library is moving forward with a *Faculty Exploratory* on the 3rd Floor.

Cooper discussed *Encore* and the options it provides for improved collection access.

d. Telecommunications

S. Seruya gave the report. There will be significant switch upgrades over the holiday break. Otherwise operations are normal.

Committee asked for information on the Emergency Notification Test. Seruya responded that IT has statistics on numbers called, timing, etc. IT is revamping the approach to e-mail notification in order to increase the notification rates. Text messages are being streamlined to fit within a 160-character limitation. The next test (retest?) will be next year – IT may use RSMAS for a limited test of the revised notification mechanisms early in 2008.

e. Internet -- networking and security

S. Seruya gave the report – statistics are in Attachment C. Internet usage is nominal--no problems are apparent. Peered-usage is approaching 100M Bits/Second.

f. Medical School IT/networking

No report.

3. Strategic Advice

a. Advice on major initiatives

i. Metro-network architecture

No report.

ii. CAS implementation

No change.

b. Academic Computing support

i. LA GRID

No report.

ii. Center for Computational Science / HPC

Nick Tsinoremas gave the report. He stated the CCS would provide advanced computing resources across the University of Miami. These resources are initially targeted in five areas, but will evolve as the need arises. The CCS is in an “organization phase” now.

They have an initial hardware configuration, which he considers “significant” but not “competitive” in terms of computing power. It includes 3 *IBM* p690s, 2 *IBM* p575s, an *IBM Xeon* cluster and a *Sun* box. These computing resources will be coupled with an enterprise-class storage solution (~500TB) to complete the initial configuration. This system is meant as a “proof of concept” configuration. This hardware is housed on the Medical Campus (for now), as datacenter space at UM is a scarce resource. The CCS is examining other space options as a more permanent home. CCS staff have office space on all three campuses. CCS resources will be in an UM-wide subnet (.ccs.miami.edu), so that they will be readily accessible throughout the university.

iv. Smart Classrooms, online options, etc.

W. Vilberg gave the report. They are finalizing the implementation of the current updated classrooms and planning for the updating of 42 additional classrooms this summer.

He noted Continuing Education is planning to bring a number of courses online for UM credit.

Finally, the *iTunesU* license process is in its final phase and he looks forward to the agreement being in place soon.

c. IT Strategic Planning

i. Responses to *EduCause* Top 10 Issues (T. Ramsay)

T. Ramsay updated the committee on *EduCause* list revisions (Attachment D). An extensive discussion resulted about how to discern the current IT academic needs at UM. It was suggested that after the SACS process is complete (in April), activities be initiated with faculty “technology exemplars” as a way to catalog

cutting edge applications and discern their needs. As a way to focus discussions, seminar series will be set up with a set of carefully chosen “exemplars” to expose faculty and staff to the possibilities and to direct discussions into specific group topics.

4. Other Business

No other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 1737.

NOTE: The next regularly scheduled ITAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2007 at 4:00 p.m., Law School Library, Faculty Board Room G480.