**IT Gov Minutes**

March 10, 2021

Via Zoom

**Attendees:** Jacqueline Britto (absent), Lori Ciccomascolo (absent), Nancy Eaton, Melissa Frost, Amanda Izenstark, Karlis Kaugars, Michael Khalfayan (absent), Ian Lester, Dean Libutti (absent), Cynthia Mace, Kelly Mahoney, Ryan Menard (absent), Sanjay Kumar Mupparapu, Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz (absent), Anthony Rolle (absent), John Stringer, Kathleen Torrens

**Guest:** Diane Goldsmith, Gaurav Khanna, Michael Macaulay

1. Approval of Minutes
   1. February 2021
   2. All moved to approve minutes as presented.
   3. All present voted to approve
2. Software Package Proposal: Collective Review Module inside Anthology Suite (Diane Goldsmith)
   1. This is not a formal approval process; this is informational about the software.
   2. It is for Gen Ed assessment data collection and analysis.
   3. It is specific for assessment in artifacts in any collection (video, art, etc.), allows random sampling, anonymity, allow more than one faculty member to score in the rubric, allow for ease of collection and showcase of data, and works with other current software that we possess.
   4. It is not integrated with the LMS purposefully. Allows for random selection. It is cloud-based.
   5. Speaking with other users of this software, it received very high praise.
   6. It can be purchased as an amendment to another software that we currently own.
   7. Expect 9-12 faculty to use it initially so single sign-on is not needed immediately.
   8. Cost is $28,000 annually plus $7,000 implementation cost (split out over two years) and is concurrent with paying for IDEA which is out of the Provost’s Office.
   9. Questions or concerns?
      1. Nancy: Other groups may be using tools for accreditation across campus. Would this tool be useful for others? Yes, and it’s open to anybody. We hope to pilot it this spring and summer and then make it available to anyone else doing an assessment process.
3. Software Package Update: Signal Vine (Michael Macaulay)
   1. Enrollment Services project to engage with students and increase retention as students don’t read emails as often but do respond to looking at texts.
   2. Reviewed many options and learned Signal Vine would be our best option and it can be rolled across campus to other areas at no additional cost.
   3. In early stages creating data files and uploading them but it will eventually work with PeopleSoft.
   4. Ability to do virtual advisor with commonly asked questions for Enrollment Services. It sends message to ES and then they can respond as well as doing AI with commonly asked questions. Allows to save the history.
   5. Research proves that texting works in higher education.
   6. Questions or concerns?
      1. Nancy: will students have to opt in versus a full rollout? Working on messaging students that will include option to opt out or back in at any time.
      2. Karlis: what do you see the potential for other areas use across campus? What’s the vision? Greg LaPointe (strategic services at CCRI) said they use it for health services, advising, targeted college messaging. Just keep from overuse so it doesn’t become white noise. Students can opt into the different departments or groups across campus for their targeted messaging.
      3. John: any thought to metadata on the backend and who has access to it and how it’s used for academic research purposes? We will need a tidy process for this and consideration of how it tracks in the student record. There are analytics available, but we haven’t dug deep on them yet. John and Mike will touch base offline to set up the parameters.
4. CIO Updates
   1. Donna Belden retired from URI on March 5 and Donna Whitford will serve as interim.
      1. Modernizing our ERP systems so we need to be very deliberate and careful on requirements for a new person and how we search for them.
   2. The two positions IT Gov recommended filing have been approved. We are rewriting the job descriptions to better match the pending projects (data integrator programmers rather than simple PeopleSoft programmer) and to attract a more diverse pool of candidates.
      1. There are generally a long list of requirements and it is counterproductive to candidate appeal for minorities.
      2. Doing pre-outreach to minorities, talking with affirmative action for guidance, etc.
      3. These two searches will come ahead of the director search.
   3. Introduction of Research Computing Projects (Gaurav Khanna)
      1. MGHPCC Collaboration: joint facility built by the big Massachusetts schools to host a data center to share resources for all involved, promotes collaboration, search, and proposal writing. Goal is for URI to join the collaboration.
      2. NSF CyberTeams: part of Yale’s grant which helps funds students for short-term projects to help faculty researchers get computational projects off the ground. It’s like an internship for the student.
      3. Seeking External Funding: for growing computational research at URI; collaborating with teams at URI and UMass campuses for nearly $3 million grants.
      4. Questions or concerns?
         1. None.
5. Project Status Updates
   1. No questions or comments from the group.
6. Brief Comparative Educause Data Update (Karlis Kaugars)
   1. Core data survey annually by Educause with detailed questions on IT on campus but this year it was scaled back to IT spending and staffing and augmented with data provided by Iped.
   2. Staffing and spending is based on institutions philosophies for students, staff, and faculty on FTEs (spending per community member).
      1. URI spends $29.76K per FTE. We are slightly below median on all doctoral granting institutions.
      2. On regional group, 18 institutions participated, and URI was lowest expense in the cohort for overall community, but slightly above median for just IT staff.
      3. Staffing of distributed IT data is highly suspect as reporting intuitions couldn’t verify their staff information. We are above median of information presented but need to keep digging.
   3. Questions or comments?
      1. Kelly: would you be willing to share your information slides?
         1. Karlis would like to meet with John first before sharing.
7. Open Forum
   1. John: CTI (consultant to implement Informatica) interested in working with URI further on a reporting data warehouse of sorts. He will bring a fuller report to this group soon. Donna Whitford will be meeting with the consultant soon. Lift on ITS resources will be minimal as consultant will do most of the heavy lifting.
   2. Kathleen: do you have an update on Brightspace? Still working to get help from Brightspace and current quote is $18k which requires it to go to RFP.
   3. Kathleen: faculty member reached out to ask if people teaching online are required to teach in Brightspace if they have their own classroom set-up in the cloud. Spoke with Anne and Jack. Should IT Gov make decision on this or the joint committee on policy? It should start with joint committee, come to IT Gov, onto administrative committee, and then to Faculty Senate executive committee before reaching Faculty Senate.
   4. Ian: any update on implementation of new security standards? No real update as it is proceeding slowly in fits and starts. RFP for managed services bundle around PeopleSoft issues last Thursday. Licensing bundle is in place. Working with serval pilot groups (outside the fold of the issue) through IT Security Services and will need to establish the findings for university policy but there are some issues that are putting a hold on it.
   5. Ian: we need to talk further about two-step authentication on campus as it is difficult and messy, causing high stress to users. It is a change from Ian’s initial hardline position on using it on everything, everywhere.
   6. Ian: sometimes ITS doesn’t know how critical some things are to others – specifically the issue with Listserv and no communication from ITS on it being down and why (aside from ITS dashboard notification). Karlis: it is sometimes a struggle in widespread messaging when an item impacts only a certain few.