Meeting was called to order at 12:55 p.m.

In attendance:
  • J. Anderson, T. Buma, E. Borkowski, S. Gupta ’15, F. Maloy, S. Sargent, D. Snyder

Absent:
  • F. Orellana, K. George

1. Review and approval of Minutes from 11/18/2013

2. Motion regarding Google Apps for Education Memo

   a. The committee reviewed and discussed a revised draft of the proposed motion for a possible LCACT vote.

   Resolved that the LCACT recommends to the FEC that the FEC appoint a study group of Union College faculty users of Google Apps

   1) to evaluate the following four concerns found in the first part of a letter signed by forty-three faculty members and forwarded to the FEC on 16 October 2013:

   • We now know that Google has an active and far from transparent surveillance relationship with the National Security Agency (NSA) and other intelligence services of the U.S. government.

   • We have concerns that customers’ reasonable expectation of confidentiality are explicitly secondary to Google’s commercial exploitation of the information that it scans or is lodged on its servers, including the content of emails.

   • There are ongoing questions about the entanglements and costs (short- and long-term potentially incurred by educational institutions as they enter into commercial agreements with Google.

   • Broader questions about the out-sourcing of and commercial agreements regarding information technology at educational institutions have not been systematically examined.
2) to act on the second of three requests made in the second part of the letter:

- to re-evaluate the commercial agreement(s) between Union College and Google in such a manner that the study group thoroughly examines the four concerns above and offers policies to address them as completely as possible.

Concerning the other two requests made in the second part of the letter,

- that the commercial agreement(s) between Union College and Google governing the use of Google Apps for Education by employees be made available to members of the campus community.

- that the FEC use the lessons of this matter to formulate a campus-wide policy on the dissemination and circulation of information that empowers members of the Union community to participate in the shared governance of the college,

the LCACT concludes that neither is within its purview or consistent with its charge and thus makes no recommendation concerning them.

b. The committee members physically present for the meeting unanimously voted in in support of this motion (7 'yes' votes, 0 'no' votes).

c. Next steps included Ellen contacting the one LCACT member who was unable to attend the LCACT meeting to provide a draft of the revised motion and then collect the member’s vote. Once all the votes were tallied, Ellen would send an email to both the FEC and to everyone who signed the original Memo indicating the committee’s decision with a copy of the revised motion.

3. Domain Merge Project Update

a. Planning for the merge of our two separate academic and administrative domains has begun. As part of this process, Macintosh computers will be joined to the domain to allow ITS the ability to push out critical security patches to all faculty and staff machines over the network.

b. The project is slated to occur over the summer and the current plan is to move the administrative domain into the academic domain. This change will have a positive impact on things like the password notification process, making it easier to notify faculty and staff when passwords are about to expire.
c. Members of the LCACT committee asked what the plans are for faculty with more than one computer, as well as if two logins would be required if file transfer protocol (FTP) is used to access one of the computers? The Director of Enterprise and Systems Administration and his staff are taking the lead on planning this project and are beginning to research the answers to these and other potential questions the community may have. If there are additional questions and/or concerns from the committee (or others on campus) that might impact this project, please do not hesitate to contact ITS.

4. Rosters.union.edu site

a. ITS needs to rewrite the “Rosters” <rosters.union.edu> website in order to make it work within the new domain environment. It is understood that this website is a valued resource to faculty and some administrative staff. As a result, the need to rewrite the code is being viewed as an opportunity for ITS to add functionality and achieve better usability for the people who regularly use “Rosters”. Therefore, it is important for ITS to understand upfront how the website is being used beyond simply viewing enrollment for courses, in order to correctly define all the desired technical and functional specifications for the new project.

b. Members of the committee explained that the “Rosters” site is extremely useful for external reviews, where one can go back ten years and see courses and enrollment. There was an inquiry from the committee asking if this project was looking to replace all of Web Advising? ITS clarified that this new project is simply focused on the “Rosters” website. Several ideas were discussed including investigating a better reporting mechanism in addition to access to detailed information that is currently available. The committee underscored the importance of not losing the ability to do what can be done now through “Rosters,” but was supportive of the idea of an improved workflow. The committee also recommended contacting the Director of Assessment, as he might have good feedback for this project.

5. New Business

a. The committee asked for a status update on the recommendations that were given by the consulting firm hired a few years ago to analyze our network infrastructure.

i. Data from the work done by the consulting firm helped support the request for funding an upgrade to the Resnet (residential network) through an outsourcing arrangement. This project occurred last year and provided students with a more robust wireless network in the dorms, equipped with 24/7 support.
ii. The study also indicated the need for several “rings” to be built to increase the redundancy of the network. Senior Staff is aware of the need to build out one particular ring with College Park Hall. Funding needs to be identified.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Reminder: LCACT website:
https://its.union.edu/about-cio/committee-academic-computing-and-technology

Handouts:
• Draft of minutes from 11/18/2013 meeting