UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Friday, October 4, 2024

Meeting Minutes

I. Introductions, Chair's Announcements, UCACC Topics

After introductions, Chair Jenson Wong reviewed the agenda and set some guidelines for committee discussions. Potential UCACC topics for this year include check-ins on campus cybersecurity plans mandated by President Drake's February letter, technological issues around Artificial Intelligence, research security, data storage, systemwide IT procurement, and revisions to UC's IT Accessibility Policy.

Members indicated interest in finding out how campuses are responding to NIST 800-171 (security requirements for Controlled Unclassified Information) and the impact on research.

Chair Wong serves as an ex-officio member of UCOLASC (the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication) and will join a meeting on October 25th to hear UC Berkeley's Director of Scholarly Communication & Information Policy talk about AI in publishing and research.

II. Consultation with UCOP's Ethics, Compliance & Audit Services

UCACC was joined by Matt Hicks, Systemwide Deputy Audit Officer, for an update on the work of the Risk Management Subcommittee of the UC Presidential Working Group on Artificial Intelligence Standing Council (UC AI Council). The AI Council is charged with guiding UC's development and use of AI in its operations (not in pedagogy).

Hicks talked about a new risk assessment guide written for administrators to help to help evaluate the risks associated with using artificial intelligence in administrative settings and if the intended use aligns with a campus' risk tolerance. The guide is meant to be flexible, easy, and efficient to use. It relies on existing authoritative guidance, such as the NIST AI Risk Management Framework and avoids proscriptive actions. Procurement decisions already call for review by UC Legal, IT, and Compliance experts to evaluate risks. The new guide explicitly states that is intended for use only for AI that is procured or used for administrative purposes and not intended for research or pedagogy which are generally in the domain of the Academic Senate. Hicks welcomes feedback from UCACC that can be implemented in the next version. Committee members suggested supplemental guidance and use case examples. The guidance document can be found on the Tools and Resources page of UC's AI website: https://ai.universityofcalifornia.edu/.

III. Consultation with UCOP's Information Technology Services

UC Cyber-Risk Program Manager Monte Ratzlaff joined the meeting to talk primarily about cybersecurity updates. CIO Van Williams was unable to join the meeting.

    a. Regents Reporting

Ratzlaff said that the annual IT report to the Board of Regents was rescheduled from September to November. It is typically provided as a written report on security initiative updates with cyber metrics from each location in an appendix. An oral presentation is given during the Regents' meeting to highlight key elements.

    b. Cyber Risk unit

The new Cyber Risk Unit at UCOP will provide a new systemwide service for supplier/vendor risk assessments. UCOP is hoping to streamline the process with a new tool vetted by Educause. Sensitive information falling under P3 or P4 classifications, such as personally identifiable information (PII) data will require a more rigorous process. The central unit will also provide enterprise and location risk assessments following a common framework from NIST. So far, the unit has a manager, two analysts, and two contractors who are working on a large backlog. The initial focus is on systemwide vendor assessments, but the unit is also working with locations. Some campuses have more robust risk assessment programs than others. Some of the current work is re-assessment of existing supplier contracts. A workgroup with systemwide representation meets monthly.

    c. Research Data Backup System – Summary of Steering Committee Outcomes

The Research Data Backup System Steering Committee was an administrative group with faculty representation that was formed to investigate how best to secure backup systems for research data. This was envisioned to be needed in cases of ransomware attacks and also just general availability. The group issued an RFP evaluated the results but has not yet finished the work. The idea was that UC would offer vetted solutions, but locations would need to foot the bill. This is related to issues around PIs who need funding to meet federal grant requirements for data preservation and what happens when payment for storage is needed after the grant funding ends.

    d. EDR and MFA Standards

New EDR (endpoint detection and response) and MFA (multifactor authentication) standards were drafted based on feedback from UCACC and other stakeholders. UCACC members asked whether campuses could make their own plans as long as they comply with the mandate. The expectation is that all campuses will use the same toolset. When UCLA experience a widely publicized breach in 2015, it was understood that a unified approach would have helped to assess which other systems were impacted.

Almost ten years later, UC is evaluating its cybersecurity options and is interested in applying systemwide standards for privacy, data storage, technical processes, and transparency. Faculty have volunteered to provide input for the RFP and UCSD and UCLA will be doing proof of concepts. UCACC reminded Program Manager Ratzlaff that the committee was there to be consulted and could provide channels to campus constituencies as well.

e. Policy updates

Director of Application Engineering Judy Thai and Trevor Finneman from UC Legal joined the meeting to talk about revisions to UC's IT Accessibility Policy. The changes are based on new digital access regulations that have been enacted under the ADA and that UC must follow. The rule states that all digital assets and experiences need to conform with the new accessibility guidelines. This will include course content websites, even those that are password-protected. UC is setting up a Center of Excellence to provide systemwide support for administrators and faculty. There is a request for one additional accessibility FTE for each location. The total cost is projected to be over $5 billion, and it unclear where funding will come from.

Committee members discussed accuracy of automated captioning, outdated machines unable to run the required software, and the use of local funds for training. Some mitigating factors to implementation include exceptions for specialized research computing and password protection or paywalls. Paywalls don't get around liability, but it can be a way to mitigate risk.

IV. Consultation with the Senate Leadership

Academic Council Chair Steven Cheung joined the committee to provide an overview of the current issues facing the Academic Senate.

Board of Regents – Chair Cheung and Vice Chair Ahmet Palazoglu attended both a Regents' retreat and a regular meeting in September. Open sessions of the Regents' meetings are streamed live and then archived, so anyone can view them. At the last meeting, the Regents discussed the growth of UC Health, which now accounts for half of the UC operating budget ($27 billion). UC Health plans to expand into the Central Valley where there are fewer healthcare resources for the population. Also at the meeting, Acting Vice President for the UC National Labs June Yu was confirmed as permanent in the position and the Regents confirmed pay increases for senior managers and chancellors while agreeing to form a committee to examine high level compensation.

UC Administrative Job Openings – Current searches are – or soon will be – underway to find a new UC President, new chancellors for UC Santa Barbara and UC Riverside, and the new position of Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs at UCOP.

Online Education – Chair Chung co-chaired A Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality that developed foundational principles around UC undergraduate online degrees, including that UC should bestow one degree regardless of in-person or online. A successor committee will work on specific recommendations.

Academic Calendar Workgroup – A workgroup to evaluate conversion to a single systemwide academic calendar is now forming with representatives from the faculty and administration at each campus.

Campus Climate – UC's funding commitment from the state this year included a requirement that UCOP deliver to the legislature a plan for handling of "expressive activities" on campuses. All campuses had to submit safety plans that OP will review for consistency. Related to this, the faculty code of conduct and faculty discipline sections of the Academic Personnel Manual (APM) are also

being reviewed to ensure they are sufficiently comprehensive. The review will also address an issue that arose last year about cases of concurrent personnel action and investigation of misconduct.

Artificial Intelligence – Immediate past Academic Council Chair Jim Steintrager will lead a faculty AI committee to review issues around instruction, academic integrity, intellectual property, and opportunities to reduce administrative burden on faculty.

Benefits – UC HR will conduct a total remuneration survey in the coming year. UC's Mortgage Origination Program (MOP), a benefit offered to some new faculty and top-level administrators, is under financial pressure, with funds depleted at some locations. UCFW has been tasked with looking into this.

V. Member/Campus Issues and Committee Discussion

UCACC members discussed the relevant academic computing and communication topics from their divisional committees and campuses.

UC Berkeley: Berkeley is considering a faculty storage "bill of rights," or something similar, to delineate how much storage faculty are allocated. The effort began when Google and Box changed their agreements and started requiring payment for data storage. Also ongoing is the need for machine room space and power. This is a challenge for work in AI, with its high energy requirements; high-needs users will likely be housed offsite at NASA-Ames in the near future. Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) is an ongoing topic, and the local committee receives regular reports from the administration.

UC Santa Barbara: UCSB's Senate committee is the Council on Research and Instructional Resources. The first meeting of the Computing subcommittee conflicted with the UCACC meeting. President Drake's February letter was a big topic on the agenda. Storage needs are also an ongoing issue. The relationship between instructional technology and cybersecurity is a campus initiative.

UC Merced's new CISO, who had been interim, send an email message to communicate the actions that would be taken in response to President Drake's letter. It will be a slow rollout as the campus community gets adjusted. Mandatory cybersecurity training means that the onus doesn't need to fall to deans, but there is definitely mandatory training fatigue among faculty. UCM's rep Lisa Yeo noted that she participated in the UC AI congress at UCLA in the spring and that although UCM hasn't done much with AI yet, it is interested in what other campuses are doing in terms of systems.

UC Santa Cruz: Two main topics for the local committee when it meets will be the cybersecurity mandate from UCOP and dealing with the fast pace of changes that are often made without proper consultation. Budget cuts on the UCSC campus will likely mean that resources are diverted from IT. The VC-IT has formed a committee on research computing and provided a guide for faculty on the resources available.

UC Davis: UCD has turned on a feature that is known as Risk Based Authentication (RBA), which prompts the user to sign in using a more secure form of authentication if there is unusual behavior associated with the account (for example, signing in from a foreign country, many sign in attempts in a one-minute window, etc.). There was some discussion about this being inconvenient for faculty

and staff, but there appears to be no push back and no repercussions. The IT admins are happy with the change because it seems to be helping to reduce the number of security incidents. UC Davis is also rolling out improved Wi-Fi coverage. A campus-based AI Council will develop principles and guidance for responsible AI. Three hours of mandatory training were cut down to one hour and made compulsory for fewer people. There is concern about the consequences of compliance with the mandates in President Drake's February letter. Initial responses have been a campuswide inventory of IT systems and proposed end to email forwarding.

UC Riverside's recent changes to its IT governance structure have increased communication and kept the Senate IT committee more informed by IT administration.

UC Santa Barbara's topics include energy use and AI/high-end computing. More energy will be needed globally.

CCGA: The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs is looking ahead to upcoming graduate student negotiations. There's a group of faculty who have been convened to advise the administration regarding graduate student education and employment. UCOP may recall a retired faculty member to serve on the negotiation team, which is a serious time commitment.

UCOLASC: The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication is learning about AI in publishing and scholarly communication. The main work of the committee is in evaluating scholarly communication agreements. Publisher requirements for data preservation and storage is also on the committee's agenda.

Committee members talked about cybersecurity mandates and whether or not measures such as MFA, EDR, and mandatory training actually work to prevent breaches. UCACC will try to obtain more information from the administration about cybersecurity incidents and what caused them. Campus IT administrators have been reticent about providing information. It is understood that UC must comply with insurance company demands, but more transparency would help with compliance.

VI. Wrap up and Next Steps
- Committee members are asked to review and provide feedback on the AI Risk Assessment Guide shared by Matt Hicks.
- Committee members are asked to share the IT accessibility policy draft with their local committees for feedback. (Available from the UCACC October Meeting Box folder)
- UCACC maintains a shared chart for comparing campus IT governance structures. UCACC members are invited to update the chart for 2024-25.
- Although not able to participate in today's meeting, UCSF representative Duygu Tosun-Turgut will continue as the Senate representative on the UC AI Council.
- UCACC will meet in-person on Dec. 13th. Travel guidance will be distributed via listserv.
- UCACC will ask CIO Van Williams about getting more details on causes of past cybersecurity incidents.
- UCACC will emphasize the need for campus faculty to provide strategic input rather than day-to-day decisions. Although the Senate has limited authority over non-academic matters, having faculty input and buy-in benefits the entire university.

Meeting adjourned: 2:00
Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCACC Committee Analyst
Attest: Jenson Wong, UCACC Chair

Meeting participants:
Jenson Wong (Chair, UCSF), George Porter (Vice Chair, UCSD), John Kubiatowicz (Berkeley), Jeremy Mason (UC Davis), Irene Chen (UCLA), Lisa Yeo (Merced), Ilya Brookwell (Riverside), Barry Grant (San Diego), Igor Mezic (Santa Barbara), Jerome Fiechter (Santa Cruz), Steven Cheung (Academic Council Chair), Partho Ghosh (Ex-Officio, CCGA Vice Chair), Kathrin Plath (Ex-Officio, UCOLASC Vice Chair), Monte Ratzlaff (Cyber-Risk Program Manager/Interim CISO), Matt Hicks (Systemwide Deputy Audit Officer), Judy Thai (Director of Application Engineering), Trevor Finneman (Principle Council, UC Legal), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)