

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Thursday, October 6, 2022

## Meeting Minutes

**I. Consultation with UCOP's Information Technology Services***Van Williams, Vice President, UC Chief Information Officer**Robert Smith, Systemwide IT Policy Director***1. Systemwide IT Assessment Report and Recommendations**

After introductions, UC CIO Van Williams began the meeting with a review of the systemwide IT assessment report and recommendations. Williams said that at the next meeting he will go over IT changes made at UCOP in the wake of the Accellion breach. For the *systemwide* IT assessment, consultants from Deloitte gathered information from over 400 individuals throughout the UC system. A summary report of themes and recommendations was provided to UC leadership, who will prioritize the recommendations into one or two top action items. Key recommendations include governance that ensures all stakeholders are heard, additional collaboration and centralizing of IT services where commonly agreed upon, and improved data security and data management. Other recommendations were around leveraging UC's purchasing power, consistency in security and identity practices, and improvements in recruitment and retention of IT personnel.

It was noted that, in BFD-IS-3 ([Electronic Information Security](#)), UC has a groundbreaking security policy, but many people either don't know about it or don't follow it.

IT support for UC's research enterprise varies greatly from campus to campus. CIO Williams would like to extend support for researchers. He said that going forward, UC will recruit an outside advisor to perform an independent review at the start of any large project and also at key points along the way. UC is looking into leveraging its relationships with IT vendors to benefit other areas of the university, such as workforce development (jobs and/or internships for UC graduates) and consulting arrangements.

*Discussion:*

UCACC members asked about whether IT staff are able to work remotely. This depends on the specific job, but UC encourages flexibility. Members asked about data and identity issues, such as new federal requirements around open data, control of data, and data release. There is concern about third party vendors and their control of and access to UC data.

UC uses Appendix DS (for data security) in agreements with third parties. The appendix,<sup>1</sup> which provides extensive protections for UC data, was drafted with input from multiple sources. However, the many requirements in the appendix may result in delays in software purchases or licensing. Some vendors push back against the conditions that claim UC ownership for all UC-generated data (third parties may negotiate for use of the data).

UCACC members asked whether more support could be provided to faculty to help them comply with the Electronic Information Security policy (IS-3). There is a systemwide workgroup that shares best

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ucop.edu/procurement-services/policies-forms/legal-forms-current/appendix-data-security.pdf>

practices, and some locations have made advances in providing support to those in the UC community who need help meeting its requirements. This is an ongoing effort.

The Department of Defense and other federal agencies are adding security requirements to their award funding. In addition, the CMMC (Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification) will start next year and other agencies will follow DoD's lead. UC expects that the requirements will drive enterprise change due to the need for third party certification or the ability to self-certify a compliant environment. Some campuses are already making plans.

Changes to federal funding requirements will be a topic at a future UCACC meeting, led by Policy Director Robert Smith.

## ***2. Policy updates***

The rescission of Presidential Policy BFB-IS-11 Identity and Access Management is complete and UC is now working to fine tune the Account and Authentication Management Standards. The standards define the primary methods for protecting UC's institutional information and IT resources, including passwords and other authentication methods. The UC standards would support requirements for CMMC.

Deloitte Consulting has recommended changes to IS-3, which will be the topic of a future UCACC meeting. Under consideration is whether IS-3's administrative focus is appropriate for research. There are benefits to a single policy, but also drawbacks. UCACC and the Academic Senate might be asked about a need for a research data security policy.

## ***3. Research Data Backup Plan Steering Committee***

CIO Williams and Vice President for Research and Innovation Theresa Maldonado are leading a steering committee to develop a systemwide "research data backup plan." A response to a breach at UCSF and recommendations from the Cyber-Risk Working Group, the plan will be narrowly scoped to focus on local (departmental and individual) data in need of back-up. UCACC Chair Matt Bishop is a member of the committee, along with two other Academic Senate committee chairs.

The UCSD representative mentioned an issue with backup costs. Backup or storage systems may have been licensed or purchased years ago with one-time funds and are now out of contract. Meanwhile, PIs cannot use federal grant funds on backup or storage. Some fields have terabytes – or more -- of data, which can get extremely expensive to store. Any proposed solution must consider the ongoing costs. CIO Williams has discussed with the Regents the use of UC's Fiat Lux Risk and Insurance Company for cybersecurity prevention, which could potentially include research data backup.

Ongoing and Future topics for UCOP consultation:

1. Cybersecurity/data security issue with web analytics
2. RFP for TDI (threat detection and identification) systemwide solution
3. Cybersecurity metrics
4. Systemwide cybersecurity audit (*when ready*)
5. Any new cybersecurity concerns
6. Data Security principles

## **II. Consultation with UC IT Strategic Sourcing**

*Tom Trappler, Associate Director, IT Strategic Sourcing*

IT Strategic Sourcing Associate Director Tom Trappler provided an overview of UC IT Strategic Sourcing, which coordinates systemwide licensing of software used for administrative as well as pedagogical and research purposes. The systemwide contracts allow individual campuses, schools, departments, and smaller units to take advantage of pre-negotiated terms. An IT Sourcing Committee (ITSC) reviews new projects while the UC Strategic Sourcing team oversees the contracts.

The preferred process for new projects is via a member of the ITSC or designated campus contact, but anyone in the UC community may contact their local representative to submit an official request via an online project intake form. Last year, a UCACC member served as a liaison to the ITSC, and the hope is to select someone for this year. [UCSF representative Jenson Wong volunteered to be the UCACC liaison to the ITSC.]

Speaking about the Oracle financial system, Trappler noted that those decisions and purchases were made by individual campuses and not his team. UC Merced joined UC San Diego's contract.

## **III. Chair's Announcements, UCACC Topics**

*Matt Bishop, UCACC Chair*

Bringing committee members up to speed, UCACC Chair Matt Bishop talked about some of UCACC's past concerns and potential priorities for the year. Included on the list are UC's software procurement issues (including the Oracle financial systems implementation), cybersecurity, and the need for faculty oversight of data. UCACC would like to get more information from the administration about what data is collected, how is it used, and how is it protected.

UCACC members brought up additional topics:

- Communication and shared governance at the campus level.
- Open data mandates from funders and the unfunded mandate for more professional data preservation practices.
- Privacy, including for students.
- Course materials and who owns them, the mining of LMS information.
- Ownership and licensing at UC.
- Administration using non-secure forms of communication and data sharing.

*In-person meeting:* Members were interested in holding an in-person meeting. A vote via Google form indicated that six members could potentially attend in person on February 9<sup>th</sup> and eight on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **IV. Consultation with the Senate Leadership**

Academic Senate Chair Susan Cochran and Vice Chair James Steintrager joined the meeting to discuss the current issues facing the Academic Senate.

UCOP has had two important positions turnover this year. Professor Douglas Haynes was selected to replace Susan Carlson as the Associate Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Programs. Haynes, a professor of History and of African American Studies who has served on Senate committees, is currently the Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at UC Irvine. The

outcome of the search for a new systemwide Provost should be announced on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that the new Provost, replacing Michael Brown, will start in January.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Academic Senate serve as faculty advisors to the Board of Regents and attend most meetings, including the Regents' Special Committee on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship. This group is overseeing the implementation of recommendations from a May 2021 report<sup>2</sup> regarding improvements to UC's policies and procedures. One recommendation was replacement of the patent tracking system. The idea is to have independent campus system that will interface with UCOP. The Regents were advised that the project will take ten years and millions of dollars.

Also at the Regents' meeting, President Drake shared his priorities for the upcoming year, which focus on expanding opportunity and excellence. UC anticipates growing its student population by 1% per year through 2030, and plans for expansion need to include maintaining high standards. The President's second stated priority is climate change. UC is getting new funding from the state, a part of which will be competed in the coming weeks. The administration is looking at resources for planning for electrification of campuses. A "Pathways to UC Fossil Free" task force has been convened by the UC Global Climate Leadership Council. Last year the Senate sent a "faculty memorial" (a petition to the Regents) calling for a significant reduction in fossil fuel combustion by UC. The President's third priority is strengthening an inclusive, respectful, and safe university community. A new systemwide community safety officer was hired by UC to coordinate efforts. Faculty groups have recommended adding data dashboards and changing police vehicles, uniforms, and equipment. The President's fourth priority is promoting health across California, including its most vulnerable communities. UC accomplishes some of this through affiliated health partners, which is covered in Regents Policy 4405.<sup>3</sup>

Chair Cochran noted that there are six systemwide reviews right now, covering issues of general education transfer requirements, entry level writing requirement testing, the closure of a loophole regarding residency requirements, an abusive conduct policy, revisions to details of faculty conflict of commitment in the Academic Personnel Manual, and a vaccination program policy.

UC recently received \$185 million from state for climate research. \$85 million was allocated by the State to UC Riverside (\$47m), UC Santa Cruz (\$20m), and UC Merced (\$18m). The remaining \$100 for faculty research on climate will be competed as soon as possible and managed similar to tobacco funding. The funds are one-time and will have to be encumbered as soon as possible.

At its most recent meeting, the Academic Council discussed faculty salaries, the 2022 post-COVID faculty survey, and software procurement and implementation. Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava, Chief Information Officer Van Williams, and Chief Procurement Officer Paul Williams joined the Council meeting to discuss the problems with the Oracle financial system and broader faculty concerns about software procurement. The complaints about Oracle were heard, and Council sent a letter to the President on October 6<sup>th</sup> reiterating the concerns. UCOP is now engaged in helping campuses handle current Oracle contracts, manage software development, and develop skills training. A meeting is planned for October 21<sup>st</sup> for IT directors and additional staff from across the system to discuss Oracle software difficulties and talk about possible improvements. Faculty experts will also be in attendance.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may21/g1attach.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/4405.html>

UCOP has been encouraged to form “strike-teams” to work with campuses who are going to switch over to the Oracle software.

## **V. Member/campus issues – Round Robin**

*UCACC members briefly described the IT issues of their divisional committees and campuses.*

*UC Davis:* UC Davis is discussing learning management systems (LMS), software sourcing, privacy, and security. Faculty want to know more about privacy controls for location, for example, in apps that are often required (for faculty as well as students). There is an increased use of electronic forms that don’t always seem to be complying with security standards.

*UCLA:* UCLA’s big issues are IT leadership, security, general IT literacy and data stewardship. UCLA’s faculty IT committee wrote two memos on these issues that are now in the UCACC Box folder (for this meeting).

*UC Merced:* Oracle continues to be the biggest issue, but also software licensing in general. The campus cannot review its spending on software due to the new system. The Chief Information Officer retired and a search has begun for a replacement. The campus is also talking about residential requirements and online classes for summer.

*UC Riverside:* The UC Riverside Academic Senate has learned more about the Oracle software issues at other campuses and is now involved in discussions with the administration about whether/how to implement it. A new CIO came on in March and is starting a consolidation initiative.

*UC San Diego:* Committee hasn’t met yet.

*UC San Francisco:* UCSF has no local senate IT committee, but the representative to UCACC attends the Executive Council meetings.

*UC Santa Cruz:* UCSC has hired Aisha Jackson as its new Vice Chancellor for Information Technology. The faculty IT committee will be engaged and working on developing a good relationship with her. UCSC conducted a survey of faculty needs around research, including backup and specialized technology. The results of the survey can be shared with the committee. UCSC is delaying its rollout of Oracle.

-----  
Meeting adjourned: 2:30pm

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, Committee Analyst

Attest: Matt Bishop, UCACC Chair

### ***Member participation:***

Matt Bishop (Chair), Avi Yagil (Vice Chair), Kyaw Tha Paw U (Davis), Kevin Thornton (Irvine), Christine Borgman (UCLA), Emily Jane McTavish (Merced), Sheldon Tan (Riverside), George Porter (San Diego), Jenson Wong (San Francisco), Frank Brown (Santa Barbara), Peter Alvaro (Santa Cruz), Susan Cochran (Ex Officio, Academic Council Chair), James Steintrager (Ex Officio, Academic Council Vice Chair), John Hildebrand (Ex Officio, UCOLASC Chair)