

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Thursday, December 1, 2022

**Meeting Minutes****I. Consultation with UCOP's Information Technology Services***Van Williams, Vice President, UC Chief Information Officer**Molly Greek, UCOP Chief Information Officer**Monte Ratzlaff, Cyber-Risk Program Manager**April Sather, UCOP Chief Information Security Officer**Robert Smith, Systemwide IT Policy Director***1. UCOP IT Reports****a. Changes at UCOP since Accellion Breach**

UC CIO Van Williams talked about the different elements of IT support across the system. UC's IT enterprise provides operational support to a broad array of users with diverse needs, including undergraduate admissions systems, UCPATH, and other business process systems, in addition to day-to-day desktop support. Regular UCACC consultants Robert Smith and Monte Ratzlaff work at the systemwide level and are involved in IT collaborations with campuses, with cybersecurity as a top priority. UCACC welcomed two UCOP IT administrators who focus on operations at UCOP to the meeting: UCOP Chief Information Officer Molly Greek and UCOP Chief Information Security Officer April Sather.

In the wake of the UC Accellion breach, UCOP implemented changes to its cybersecurity program, led by UCOP CIO Molly Greek. One of the first tasks was the hiring of April Sather as UCOP CISO. Greek shared with UCACC a summary of the changes and noted that UC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava oversees UC's Information Technology Services and must personally approve all higher level (P3 and P4) security exceptions to the IS-3 policy. The UC President gets involved when needed.

**Summary of changes:**

- Improvements to IT cybersecurity processes – the IT staff reviewed security protocols related to timing and communication to improve both.
- Strengthened cybersecurity talent by increased training on security expectations for all IT staff.
- Implemented a risk management program – looked at data storage, file transfer, and threat detection systems; created application inventory and conducted outreach and training.
- Improved cyber escalation protocols – decreased time for communication about potential as well as confirmed threats; hold monthly security briefings for CREs (cyber-responsible executives). If there is a loss or exposure, the timing for communications to location CIOs, CISOs, CPOs, and CREs (as inclusively as possible) is one day.

ITS conducted a ransomware tabletop exercise for IT staff and has increased backup to one-month (from two weeks), and storage for a year in AWS.

UCACC members asked about the diversity of the UC IT staff and discussed the benefit of having a diverse workforce in understanding users. Approximately 40% of the UC IT staff are women. UC's Information Technology Services unit is involved in a pilot program with the new Director of Office of Workplace Inclusion and Belonging at UCOP.

UCACC members asked about disaggregation of data, which makes sense some of the time but can also be inefficient. Members also discussed the need for third party vendors versus building systems in house. Some bemoaned the deterioration of faculty-staff relationships that can occur when technological processes replace human interactions.

UCACC members expressed appreciation for the update on UCOP cybersecurity practices and suggested that the UCOP staff regularly report updates to UCACC.

## 2. Cybersecurity

### a. Policy updates – IS-3

UC's Information Security Policy (IS-3) is undergoing review in preparation for updating. Policy Director Robert Smith will ask for faculty representation on the policy revision group, which will include security experts and leadership from across UC.

### b. Cyber-Risk Management and Reporting Unit Pilot

ITS was granted funding through UC's Risk Services and Fiat Lux insurance program for a supplier risk assessment pilot program. As UCACC has discussed in the past, the software vendor risk assessment process is a real impediment to productivity. The pilot will bring in stakeholders to work together to develop a consistent risk assessment process. The project has a target of early next year for finalizing internal requirements and recruitment of a project manager.

## 3. New federal agency security requirements

Policy Manager Robert Smith provided an overview of cybersecurity trends coming from the federal government. There is a big emphasis on cybersecurity now, driven by Congress, the executive branch, and intelligence agencies worried about malicious foreign influence and security breaches. The requirements for cybersecurity protections from federal funders will likely look like a directive for administrative controls on academic computing.

Federal grant recipients will be obligated to comply with all regulations. UC receives hundreds of millions of dollars from the Department of Defense annually. Some grant recipients will have to go through a certification process, per the new CMMC (Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification). The CMMC expands controls and certification requirements. Level 1 is the lowest level and most institutions can self-certify. UC has some Level 2 funding, some of which may be able to self-certify, but some will require third party certification. The framework for third party certification is being built and growing.

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

*Susan Cochran, Academic Council Chair*

*James Steintrager, Academic Council Vice Chair*

At the latest UC Board of Regents meeting, the Academic Council Chair and Vice Chair provided a briefing on the 2022 systemwide faculty survey. There will be a workgroup formed based on the recommendations from the survey report.<sup>1</sup>

The Academic Council Chair and Vice Chair attended a recent retreat of the Board of Regents and Chancellors at Asilomar. The Regents discussed ways to provide access for more students, become more efficient, and translate research outputs into products for social good and financial benefit.

The Academic Council approved “CalGETC,” a new transfer curriculum agreed upon by the three higher education segments in California. It will be confirmed by the Assembly of the Academic Senate this month.

Vice Chair Steintrager talked about three climate-related meetings that occurred within the past couple of weeks:

1. The new “Pathways to a Fossil Fuel Free UC” task force has been convened and held its first meeting to work on plans to help campuses and medical centers decarbonize. This will be done mainly through electrification projects. It is a joint administrative/faculty-led subcommittee of the Global Climate Leadership Council.
2. The Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) is an administrative-led committee formed in 2014 to advise UC on achieving climate and sustainability goals. The recent meeting focused on the UC Fossil Free task force and heard from VP for Research & Innovation Theresa Maldonado about the State’s climate resiliency funding opportunities.
3. The Academic Senate’s Climate Crisis group also met to discuss topics related to the decarbonization group, including how to involve students.

Regarding the ongoing strike by graduate student employees, the Senate leaders noted that they are focusing on making sure that faculty are considered by the UC negotiators on behalf of the administration.

### **III. Chair’s Announcements, approval of minutes**

*Matt Bishop, UCACC Chair*

- UCACC will plan to meet in-person on April 20, 2023. Committee members can revisit the idea in February.
- UCACC Chair Matt Bishop proposed that UCACC take up data security principles that were developed at UC Davis a few years ago after a breach at UCLA led to the systemwide implementation of the FireEye threat detection and identification software monitoring. At the time, faculty were not sufficiently consulted and some felt the response was overstepping.

Committee members will take some time to review the principles and discuss whether to adopt at the next meeting. The current draft might need some context and definition of terms before it is ready for systemwide distribution. When finalized by UCACC, the principles would be sent to the Academic Council for endorsement, and then out to divisions.

- Committee members will review the meeting minutes from October 6, 2022, to approve at the next meeting.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/reports/sc-md-2022-uc-faculty-survey.pdf>

#### **IV. Member/campus issues (round-robin) and General Discussion**

*UC Davis:* A survey of priorities revealed one related to LMS. There is concern that the metadata in learning management systems may be gathered and harvestable by non-instructors (e.g., administrators) without permission. The local committee and student council groups are looking into this as it impacts intellectual property, privacy, and academic integrity. They will also be looking at privacy and security of third party apps more broadly.

*UC Irvine:* UCI has a combined committee on research, computing and libraries (CORCL). Recent discussions have been about a new email monitoring system on campus that gives the vendor complete access to all email messages.

*UC Merced:* The search for a new CIO continues.

*UC Riverside:* UCR is discussing the transition to the Oracle financial accounting software after hearing the warnings from other campuses. There is an administrative/faculty team that will focus on preparation, learning, and testing the system.

*UC San Francisco:* The UCACC rep noted that while he is a member of the UCSF Senate Executive Committee, there is no Senate IT committee for faculty. The lack of an Academic Senate connection with administrative IT committees is an issue that will be explored.

*UC San Diego:* The first phase of a new student information system for course and curriculum approvals is rolling out through summer 2023. The second phase will be in 2025. There are still issues with UCPATH.

*UC Santa Barbara:* UCSB has a new CIO and is finally switching over to Canvas. Some faculty are bemoaning the loss of functionality from the old LMS system. All other UC campuses already use Canvas and it has proven to be sufficient, and may even offer the ability for interactive online activities for tech-savvy users.

#### **V. Under Review Items**

See: <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/under-review>

George Porter (UCSD) will review the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices to determine if there are academic computing considerations that would be appropriate for UCACC comment.

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCACC analyst  
Attest: Matt Bishop, UCACC Chair

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

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