

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Thursday, February 9, 2023

## Meeting Minutes

**I. Consultation with UCOP's Information Technology Services***Van Williams, Vice President, UC Chief Information Officer**Jayesh (Jay) Panchal, UC Chief Information Security Officer**Robert Smith, Systemwide IT Policy Director**Anne Bessman, Strategic Advisor, UCOP***1. New UC CISO**

New UC CISO Jay Panchal introduced himself and briefly described his background working for the World Bank and other banking institutions.

**2. Research Data Backup System (RDBS) Steering Committee**

UCOP Strategic Advisor Anne Bessman provided an update on the work of the Research Data Backup System (RDBS) Steering Committee, which will soon determine whether to move forward with an RFP. The RFP is expected to bring out the options available. The scope of the research data includes everything from individual computers to large scale server clusters, potentially necessitating two separate solutions. The Steering Committee believes that the ongoing cost should be paid for via campus assessment due to the imperative of a systemwide solution.

UCACC members asked about stewardship and curation, but those and other data requirements are not part of this project, which is narrowly focused on data security and storage, and providing a tool for those who need it. Staff from the California Digital Library have been involved in discussions. UCACC members also noted the potential challenges of user uptake and the potentially complicated details of data ownership at UC. The committee encouraged the RDBS Steering Committee to work closely with CDL to coordinate research data management and stewardship efforts across the University.

**3. RFP for a systemwide TDI (threat detection and identification) solution**

Information on an upcoming RFP for a systemwide TDI (threat detection and identification) solution will be sent via email or discussed at the next UCACC meeting.

**4. Change to the role of CRE (Cyber-Risk Responsible Executive) and update on Cyber-Risk Governance Committee (CRGC)**

Responses to the several IT assessments conducted over the last year commented on the unusual role of the CRE (Cyber-risk Responsible Executive) from each UC location. It is a unique designation, meant to identify one campus person responsible for sharing information systemwide. Some feel the role should be held by a high-level campus executive, while others see it as a technical role. Baker Tilly recommended eliminating the role and distributing responsibilities. This question will come back to UCACC for further advisement.

The Cyber-Risk Governance Committee is useful, but there are gaps. In addition to monitoring UC's risk profile, overseeing IT investments, and coordinating cybersecurity efforts across the system, a key

part of the committee's charter was sharing information about best practices around cybersecurity. More communication could be helpful to inform campus decisions about broader campus IT issues beyond cybersecurity. For example, there are currently five data centers across the system with two more coming in and no central planning.

## **5. ITS Cybersecurity Update to the UC Board of Regents**

The Regents are interested in identifying and tracking assets – primarily computing devices – and have asked questions about number of accounts and extent of multifactor authentication use systemwide. The cybersecurity insurers ask same questions, so not knowing the numbers impacts UC's cost. With little administrative support for faculty technology, it is not feasible to impose controls. There are compliance issues and so UC will look at what is possible in terms of asset identification. UCACC members noted that this is a nationwide issue for all universities.

The final draft of UC's Information Security Assessment will be available for UCACC members before the next meeting. Recent assessments have been integrated into a three-year roadmap and plan.

## **II. UCACC Member Round-Robin**

***UCLA*** – UCLA's Senate IT committee is in its third year of a three-year charter and will need to be renewed. The committee is involved with governance issues and receives regular updates from the CIO and other administrators. UCLA is planning some major IT upgrades and will need Senate engagement in planning. In the past, UCLA had a well-functioning IT governance structure that included a data governance task force and a joint admin/faculty IT oversight committee. Shared governance works best when faculty on administrative committees are appointed by the divisional Committee on Committees.

***UC Santa Barbara*** – UCSB is the last UC campus to adopt canvas as its LMS. The campus will move ahead with the implementation of the Oracle financial accounting system that has caused so many problems at Merced and San Diego. Advice has been to make sure faculty are involved in the rollout, that there be a locus of responsibility, and provision of assistance for those who need it.

***UC Santa Cruz*** – The local committee meets every other week and is joined by the VC-IT at each meeting. Stored data is currently being migrated to a co-location facility in Washington State. Faculty are working with the administration on issues of data management and data governance. A recent technology survey of faculty focused on research and unveiled a surprising lack of understanding about data stewardship. The local committee is concerned that additional costs will be forthcoming for cloud or other backup solutions.

***UC San Diego*** – UCSD's Committee on Academic IT (CAIT) will be discussing concerns about ownership of course materials created using technology. UC's Policy on Ownership of Course Materials stipulates that course materials created with the use of exceptional university resources are to be governed by a written agreement that specifies how rights are divided. Faculty feel that UCSD's written agreement in the context of promoting online instruction is overreaching and creating bad feelings. The local committee will try to develop an agreement that is narrower in scope. There may be an upcoming issue with G-Suite related to space restrictions and who pays for additional charges.

***UC Irvine*** – UCI's CORCL cancelled its meeting this quarter, but the committee has been discussing new NIH guidelines around data security. UCI's infrastructure is very federated and there is potentially

duplication of effort, with individual schools forming their own committees. Currently, the new graduate student contracts have become the all-consuming topic.

**UC Riverside** – Riverside is going forward with the rollout of a new financial accounting software this summer and there is a campuswide training initiative. The campus will be using Gmail for students and is proposing a move to Zoom for telephone. Online courses and classroom digitization needs continue to be issues.

**UC San Francisco** – UCSF uses Microsoft products; Google is not supported or encouraged due to security and compliance issues around protected health information. It turns out that UCSF has an IT governance steering committee with a Senate representative, but is not coordinated with UCACC representation. This will be investigated.

**UC Merced** – The former deputy CIO, who has been at Merced since 2010, has been hired as the new CIO. Merced has not had a separate Senate IT governance committee, but now may be a good time to look into one.

**UC Davis** – Like some of the other campuses, the UC Davis campus has a few IT-related committees with Senate representatives, but they don't all meet together or necessarily report back to the Executive Council. The UC Davis local committee is concerned about administrative overreach regarding data sharing and LMS, poorly designed digital forms that lack appropriate security features, phishing and legitimate emails that look like phishing, DoD grants and secure vs. open data, access to deceased faculty members' email accounts, vendor risk assessments, and issues around privacy with third-party apps that require personal information. Appendix DS is in use, but it can be amended in individual cases. The local committee has invited administrators - including legal counsel – to its next meeting to discuss some of these issues.

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

*Susan Cochran, Academic Council Chair*

*James Steintrager, Academic Council Vice Chair*

At a recent meeting of the Board of Regents, the Regents expressed concern about the level of cybersecurity on the campuses. The Board received a briefing from UCOP and an update from the UCSC Chancellor. As a network of interlocking entities with different needs, the university does not function like a typical business. Students and faculty can generally download any software. Academic Council Chair Susan Cochran pointed out to the Regents that she had to buy her own laptop and phone.

Enterprise software across UC continues to be an issue. This includes the financial accounting and retirement systems. For the latter, UC must rely on the vendor for updates to keep it going, even while looking for other options. UCPATH will require increasing financial investments to keep it running. Employee retention at the UCPATH site in Riverside is proving to be a challenge.

UCOP was tasked by the Regents to explore new a patent tracking system to replace the old one that was out of date and not meeting campus needs. Although the Regents are eager for the change, finding and deploying a solution that works for all locations will take time and money. On a related note, Chair Cochran asked that UCACC consider what technical or other challenges are getting in the way of UC

effectively adopting enterprise software systems, and whether increased faculty input and shared governance would help.

The Academic Council has forwarded to the UC President responses to a systemwide policy on vaccination programs. It sent letters regarding implementation of faculty salary increases and recommendations for a total remuneration study and a comprehensive benefits survey.

The Assembly of the Academic Senate passed a revision to a Senate regulation that ensures students receiving a UC degree complete at least some in-person coursework. The revision closes an unintentional loophole that made it possible for students – especially transfer students – to complete online degrees and for departments to create fully online undergraduate degrees. Campuses are starting to propose such degrees, often targeted at transfer students, which must be reviewed following the Academic Senate and campus procedures. The University Committee on Educational Policy suggested that the loophole be closed before assessing these proposed programs. Discussions will continue.

UCACC members brought up the fact that even with in-person classes, some students only watch the videos and do not participate in class. Members were interested in the extent of video lecture capture on each campus, and how others keep track of student attendance. Attendance is important for accreditation, because federal rules prevent providing financial aid for “correspondence courses.”

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

- UCACC approved the meeting minutes for Oct. 6 and Dec. 1, 2022.
- UCACC’s IT Sourcing Committee representative Jenson Wong (UCSF) is learning about the principles and processes for systemwide RFPs for software and IT licenses.
- Members circulated the draft “Principles of Acceptable Use of Data Collected by Cyber-Monitoring Programs” on their campuses and shared feedback. On some campuses, there are already guidelines and parameters for data security in place. Chair Matt Bishop will review the comments prior to the April meeting and determine next steps.

### **IV. Inclusive Workplace Culture Megastudy**

*Jennifer A. Chatman, Co-PI of the study and Professor at Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley*  
*Hoyt Sze, Managing Counsel, UC Legal*

UCACC was briefed about a new study involving staff email metadata at UCB, UCSD and OP (and potentially other locations) that will entail the collection of sender email address, recipient email address, date stamp, time stamp, and message size. The purpose of the study is to learn whether particular interventions improve feelings of connection with colleagues. A general notice and opt out option will be provided to staff. Although the project does not involve electronic communications of faculty, UC Legal brought the study to the attention of UCACC due to potential interest by faculty in the application of the [UC Electronic Communications Policy](#) (ECP). The privacy officers at each of the study locations have analyzed the protocol and determined that it involves a low risk of violating the policy given that content of communications will not be accessed or examined and an opt out option will be provided.

The study's co-PI, UC Berkeley Haas Professor Jenny Chatman, described the goal of the project as attempting to determine what methods of "re-wiring social networks" would help to build inclusiveness among workers. The intervention is to invite staff to participate in learning circles that will make them feel more included and connected to co-workers. The learning circles will be small groups comprising staff of different genders, races, and positions. The hope is that the study will yield guidance for how to build inclusiveness within the university.

In terms of security and privacy, email addresses will be anonymized using a hashing algorithm. No personal identification will be saved. Campus leaders will have communication templates to send out regarding opting out. Participants can opt out at any point in the study. UCACC suggested that a longitudinal study might be even more informative, if that was possible. Members briefly discussed issues relating to the UC Electronic Communications Policy (ECP). Access without consent in the ECP refers to email content, not metadata. Specific information about consent is not included in the policy.

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

***Members attending:***

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), Frithjof Kruggel (substitute for CCGA rep), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)