

Minutes of Meeting**November 19, 2009**

Attending: Joel Primack, Vice Chair (UCSC), Felix Wu (UCD), Tony Givargis (UCI) (telephone), Martin Raubal (UCSB) (telephone), Brett Stalbaum (UCSD), Ida Sim (UCSF), Martha Winnacker (Academic Senate Executive Director), Paul Weiss (Information Resources and Communication Executive Director), Brenda Abrams (Policy Analyst)

I. Introductions

UCCC Vice Chair Joel Primack chaired the meeting because Chair Anthony Joseph is out of the country. Vice Chair Primack announced that he will be the director of a new Multicampus Research Program, the systemwide Institute on AstroComputing. The UCSD representative described a unique major, the Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts program in Music and Visual Art, which is being coordinated by the departments of Music and Art. Theater and Dance may be added to the Arts department and offer one major. UCSF is working with the four other UC medical schools on electronic health records. IT governance is in transition at this campus and basic IT issues are being dealt with. The UCSF representative explained that the main problem with the data is the lack of semantic standardization in medical records and the complexity of the semantics. There is also a need to develop computing infrastructure. UCD's representative shared information about the Global Environment for Network Innovations project which is focus on the future of the internet that utilizes cloud computing and network virtualization. The representative is also looking at online social networking and how information can be leveraged for information systems.

II. Student Gmail

Vice Chair Primack reviewed the results of a survey of UCD students regarding their experience with Gmail. UCD is the first campus that switched to Gmail and 34,000 students affiliated with this campus use the system. According to the survey, 45% felt well-prepared for the transition to Gmail, 28% strongly agreed that they were well prepared, 16% were neutral, and 11% felt they were not prepared for the transition. Thirty-seven percent of students said they were very satisfied, 34% said they were satisfied, 12% said they were neutral, and a total of 17% said they were unsatisfied or very unsatisfied. The student Gmail system does not have advertising. The Vice Chair described some of the changes that were made in the UC-wide agreement with Google and features of Gmail. The savings to the campus are minimal but the benefits to the students are valuable. After graduation, students will be able to retain their Gmail account if they want -- which is important to the alumni office. UCSC is in the early stage of implementing Gmail and 3,500 students have opted in so far. Students have not been forced to transition to Gmail and about 100 per week are transitioning to it. In March 2010 all students at UCSC will have to use Gmail. Many universities have switched to Gmail.

Discussion: Google will eventually delete emails that have previously been deleted by the user. UCD moved to the Gmail system following a major outage of the email system for two weeks. UCSF is hiring a Chief Information Officer who will work on the issue of student email and an important consideration for this campus is security and privacy. There are currently no discussions about faculty and staff at any campus switching to Gmail because a more secure

system is required. Other campuses are not considering switching to Gmail at this time, noting concerns about privacy and security.

III. Consultation with the Office of the President

- *Paul Weiss, Executive Director, Information Resources and Communication*

Executive Director Weiss explained the services that IR&C provides including working on information technology infrastructure at UCOP, the campuses, and systemwide. IR&C is also responsible for UC-wide coordination and response including new technology initiatives and strategic planning for future IT needs. IR&C primarily delivers services to the campuses and supports payroll systems at nine campuses. Campuses are able to save money as a result of the services IR&C provides. IR&C does not run the IT departments at the campuses but will identify issues of common interest across the campuses. A significant portion of IR&C's budget is for personnel, and there are also expenditures for hardware, licenses, and rent for mainframes. As a result of the budget situation, IR&C absorbed a 10% budget cut.

Implementation of the shared research computing project is moving slower than anticipated. The oversight board has been established and a number of faculty are members. The clusters will be installed at the UCSD supercomputing center and at UCB instead of NERSC. A primary goal is to determine what services are attractive to researchers so the need for them to have clusters of CPUs in their offices and labs is eliminated and to reduce the cost for heating and cooling. A data warehouse called the decision support network is being developed. The warehouse will have data from the campuses which will be cleaned and standardized, and made easily available.

Discussion: A member commented that there is an issue with information technology research and the Institutional Review Boards. The Boards are now reviewing whether research is touching on information related to human subjects, and this is an area with which the members of the IRB are not familiar. There is a national conversation about this issue as well. There is a UCSF policy requiring that all laptops are encrypted, but campuses have the choice between the two vendors with which UCOP contracted.

Vice Chair Primack described UCCC's objections last year to the shared research computing project including that several of the principal investigators already have free access to clusters at NERSC. Whether the center is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act needs to be clarified because if it is not, the medical centers will not be able to utilize it. Another issue with the project is that it should be open to more principal investigators in the future. The committee discussed the benefit of shared servers including the cost savings. The IT Leadership Council is spearheading the multiple year shared data center effort. Executive Director Weiss remarked that it may not be wise for UC to build mega data centers.

Vice Chair Primack mentioned that UCOP should select a system for web conferencing. A subcommittee of ITLC, the Communication Planning Group, is reviewing alternative systems and will make a recommendation.

Action: The committee will send an informal memo to UCORP about the IRB's review of information technology research.

IV. Minimum Information Technology Guidelines

The committee analyst provided background on UCCC discussion of minimum information technology guidelines. The question is whether UCCC wants to conduct a survey on this.

Discussion: The committee agreed with a member's suggestion to review guidelines from other major universities about minimum standards and use these as examples. The analyst will locate and forward guidelines to the committee.

V. Faculty and Staff Email Systems

The Vice Chair asked if any campuses are discussing changing their current email systems. Vice Chair Primack noted that a reason UCSC faculty and staff will not switch to Gmail is related to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and the fact that Google's servers may be based outside the United States. For research involving human subjects or that is governed by ITAR, a more secure system is required. Allowing access by outside individuals as a result of subpoenas is also an issue. A small ITLC task force will be looking at email systems and UCCC will want to monitor the outcome of their discussions.

Discussion: Since UCSF is in the process of hiring a new CIO the faculty email system is one of the issues being discussed, but other campuses are not considering changing systems.

VI. Shared Research Computing Systems

The Vice Chair noted that Executive Director Weiss provided an update on the shared research computing system earlier in the meeting. One question is whether the number of faculty using the system will be increased.

Discussion: An intent of the project was to provide resources for junior faculty, but many the current principal investigators already have access to this type of resource. UCCC should focus on encouraging UCOP to add more faculty to the project, especially junior faculty. The committee would like to know the membership of the oversight body. Members commented that if the goal is to share the computing resources with a larger number and variety of users, the project's funding could have been used to train a larger number of faculty who are not now currently using computing cluster resources. There are 24 principal investigators and the projects total budget is \$5 million, for a cost of \$200,000 per principal investigator. Training for faculty on how to use similar systems could be conducted for a fraction of this cost which is something UCCC should propose. The initial principal investigators should be asked to participate in the workshops or trainings to support the junior faculty. *The committee will vote by email about whether a letter should be submitted to Council documenting the recommendations discussed today.*

VII. Web Conferences

Vice Chair Primack asked members about their experience with web conference systems. UCD conducted a study and, after determining that Adobe Connect had significant benefits, purchased licenses.

Discussion: Members commented that they have successfully used Skype but that the video is disabled when there are more than two participants. UCCC would like to use iLink or Adobe Connect for the February meeting. The UCSF representative provided a demonstration of Adobe Connect. *The committee will consider writing a letter to the Senate Executive Director strongly encouraging UCOP to adopt a mature web conference system that can be used by the Senate committee members.*

VIII. Goals for 2009-2001

Members should identify goals for the committee for this academic year.

Discussion: Vice Chair Primack will forward materials to the committee about the use of multi-screen displays and the need for common standards for their use across the campuses. The changing nature of computer labs on campuses and how students are using them now was identified as a potential topic. The main purpose of the labs now is to make expensive software available to students. Members will check with the campus IT departments about the future plan for labs and the use of peripherals. UCSF is beginning to focus on simulation, capturing the content of lectures, and collaborative learning. The committee discussed last year's proposal to link UC seminars.

IX. New Business

Report of the Special Task Force on Remote and Online Education

Vice Chair Primack described the contents of the report. The Task Force concluded that online education will not result in cost savings but can be more convenient for certain types of students.

Discussion: Members discussed their experience with online instruction. The committee agreed that online instruction works better with some disciplines rather than others. There is a need for graduate programs that are multiple campus collaborative. It was noted that other universities have established certificate programs that are strictly online that generate revenues. The committee will submit a letter indicating that significant support is required for online instruction. The analyst will ask the committee for comments before the January 15, 2010 deadline.

X. Executive Session

The committee did not have an executive session.

Meeting Adjourned at: 3:45

Minutes prepared by Brenda Abrams

Attest: Joel Primack