IT Steering Committee

Minutes

Date   02/10/2014   Start Time   2:00 PM   Adjournment Time   3:08 PM   Location   Library 622
Type of Meeting   ⊠ Regular   ☐ Special

CHAIR	Chance Eppinette
SECRETARY	Laura Knotts
ATTENDEES	Dr. William Barnett, Dr. Gina Biglane, Dr. Edward Eller, Mr. Chance Eppinette, Ms. Donna Glaze, Mr. Jeffrey Hendrix, Ms. Laura Knotts, Mr. Christopher Ringo, Dr. Rick Stevens, Mr. Adam Taylor, Mr. Brian Taylor, Mr. Craig White, and Mr. Lindsey Wilkerson, with guest Mr. Donnie Lynn
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Dr. Michael Beutner

Agenda

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	

Secretary needed - Laura Knotts appointed. Motioned by William Barnett, seconded by Lindsey Wilkerson

DISCUSSION TOPICS	

What has been happening the past couple of years:
1. Walker Hall incident forced rethinking. Servers had to be replaced due to smoke damage.
2. 900 security cameras now active on campus; we will need another server to expand this further. 300 security doors now on campus, and labs now need authentification to log into computers.
Ongoing projects:
1. Determining how to revamp the dorm internet. Computing Center is installing ULM's own internet (like in academic buildings) after a lack of performance from Comcast. The cable contract will be taken over by Dish Network.
2. Reorganizing Banner, HR, etc. for Academic Reorganization
Prospective projects:
1. Venyu, a large-scale data center, might be contracted as a backup for our servers, including LDAP, to prevent the kind of shut down the fire in Walker caused. Moodle and other off-site programs are useless without LDAP.
2. Banner system might be moved off-site for support & monitoring by Ellucian. This would free up the Computing Center to work on other projects. They would test and prepare for this change over six months.
3. Banner XE is coming soon. INB and SSB will morph into a consolidation. There will be some custimization available for screens. Registration will improve by catching more scheduling errors, can email schedules to the students, possibly block register for certain programs (Nursing, Pharmacy, etc.). Financial Aid will be the first focus. Eventually this could make timesheets electronic as well as Workflows.
4. Updating parts of the phone system, including electronic voicemail and automated attendant as possibilities. This would also set the stage for a changeover to a Voice-over-IP (VoIP) system. One concern is needing a backup (in cases like the Walker Hall fire) to avoid a shutdown in disaster situations. If we had VoIP during the fire, we would have lost all communication. Some colleges down south are already changing (or have already changed) over to VoIP.
5. Outsourcing email might be an option. Looking at possibly hosting Zimbra offsite, using Google apps (security is lax and would have to purchase extra security, bumping up the cost), or using Microsoft Office 365 (works with existing license structure). Computing Center plans to talk to Microsoft 365 to get more information. They are considering the storage capacity, cost, and archive times for each possibility. Getting out of the email business will give the Computing Center more time to work on other projects, especially with the shortage of staff.
Other topics:
1. Computer Center Personnel (call center) moved to the Library's 1st floor. CallCenter & Helpdesk combined recently to create more effective call resolutions. Looks like the staff will remain in the Library when Walker reopens, but the data center will still

be in Walker.

2. Sandel Hall renovation has been reengaged. It should be ready in about 18 months and looks to be impressive.

Brought up by Committee:

1. An interest in trying to raise the STAP fee cost was shown by Donna Glaze.

2. Dr. Eller asked whether the English labs in Walker would still be there. Chance said those labs should be in the same place when Walker reopens.

CONCLUSIONS	
Motion to adjourn: Moved by Lindsey Wilkerson, seconded by Rick Stevens	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		