

SUMMARY FOR ARCHITECTURE & NEW TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 24, 2017

TIME: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

LOCATION: Dumke Room, Eccles Broadcast Center

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Beekhuizen	David Blackburn	Tim Ebner	Jeff Folsom
Demian Hanks	Matt Irsik	Jim Livingston	Jim Logue
Chris Roberts	Steven Seal	Jon Thomas	Daniel Trentman
Thomas Wolfe			

COMMITTEE SUPPORT: Scott Sherman, Emily Rushton

UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Rebwar Baesmat	Derick Bingman	Pieter Bowman	Joe Breen
Dean Church	Steve Dean	Matt Harting	Sylvia Jessen
Josna Kotturappa	Chris Stucker	Wes Tolman	Rob White

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Computer lab statistics monitoring working group update
- Campus IT strategic plan year in review
- Campus wireless strategy
- Unified Communications strategy
- Open floor

Computer lab statistics monitoring working group update

Jon Thomas, director for Teaching and Learning Technologies, recapped the results from the student computing survey conducted in 2016, explaining that the results and current data helps paint a picture, but is not actionable. The group needs more detailed data definitions in order to make data-driven decisions. The group’s primary role is to develop data definitions and processes for collecting data, and establish clarity around potential decisions to be made. Currently, the group is looking at the specific lab types across campus and what makes them different, which statistics that should be collected, how to establish standards for reporting and implementing those standards, and finally, looking for a “plug-and-play” option that smaller, less resourced labs can utilize. Thomas reiterated that the group’s goal is not necessarily to recommend a specific software solution, but to recommend standards by which labs should be reporting their stats. There was a brief discussion about Thomas coming back to present on the progress of the group in June.

Campus IT strategic plan year in review

CIO Steve Hess reviewed the campus IT strategic plan and discussed everything that’s been accomplished in the first year of the plan being in place. Accomplishment highlights included:

establishing a governance process; approving the creation of the network architecture Community of Practice; completing the first phase of the Identity and Access Management program; creating a campus-wide printing working group; leveraging the Office of Software Licensing for campus-wide license agreements (which prompted a brief discussion re: the Adobe agreement renewal, and a request that Hess return to ANTC with utilization figures at a later date); creating a network vision statement and private IP space strategy; and hosting the Software Anywhere summit; among other achievements made throughout the year.

Campus wireless strategy

Trevor Long, associate director for UIT Network & Core, presented on the newly-created campus wireless strategy. Objectives of the strategy include providing a consistent wireless experience, improving coverage, adopting advancements, and addressing the funding model. Long reviewed the results from the indoor wireless survey conducted in 2016 and noted the locations that need improvement. He clarified that the survey measured signal strength, not congestion, and only indoor spaces.

Since the survey, Long and his group have been meeting with campus stakeholders to discuss what needs currently exist and what groups are currently doing. Everyone interviewed stated they would like to have outdoor Wi-Fi for common areas, as well as support for the growing demand in number of devices and users on campus.

Long also covered what's been done thus far to improve Wi-Fi on campus, including: increased secured with ETLs; clinical UConnect being moved to private IP space; redesigning UGuest; refreshing 1,800 access points on campus, and so on. Future goals include improving service and coverage, preparing for new technologies, providing Internet of Things onboarding, updating the architecture and standards, and having sustainable funding. Hess added that UIT has requested additional funding for wireless.

Long talked about the challenges of meeting the strategy's objectives, including the fact that wi-fi networks use a range of unregulated radio frequencies, which means many electronic devices and appliances exist that can cause interference and degraded performance (i.e. the network will accommodate slower devices, such as a very old laptop, thus slowing down performance and speed for those using newer, faster devices).

Long requested approval from ANTC to move the campus wireless strategy to SITC for consideration, and CTO Jim Livingston clarified that the strategy as presented is not a tactical plan, but simply a strategy for how to address wireless going forward, and as significant things occur, they'll come back to ANTC to keep everyone in the loop. The motion was seconded, and the strategy was approved to move on to SITC.

Unified Communications strategy

Mike Ekstrom, director for Network and Communications Infrastructure, presented on the overarching strategy for unified communications (UC) at the U. He showed what is currently being provided, including traditional voice services, email, voicemail, Skype for Business, secure IM, Box, OneDrive, and Office365. Ekstrom then went over the UC vision, which is, “Delighting and empowering users with easy-to-use communication and collaboration solutions.” He talked about the current strengths, as well as gaps to address (including distributing more educational materials regarding UC tools/solutions).

Ekstrom then talked about current projects taking place between FY18 and FY19. There is at least 1 million square feet of new building being added at the U over this timeframe, and Ekstrom’s group is responsible for deploying the phones to these new spaces.

Jim Turnbull, CIO for U of U Health, asked for the cost to deliver unified communications per employee/student, and Ekstrom agreed to gather that data and share with the committee. Turnbull said it would be valuable to see if the cost is in alignment with higher education and/or healthcare across other organizations, and there was general agreement from the group on this.

Ekstrom asked the committee for approval to move the UC strategy to SITC for consideration. The motion was approved.

Open floor

There was a brief discussion regarding UMail storage, online email archiving, and the inconsistencies some faculty/staff have experienced when requesting increased mailbox sizes. Ekstrom offered to come back to ANTC to speak solely on the UMail strategy and current capabilities, and to answer any questions related to storage, and the group agreed this was a good idea.

Action summary			
Action	Topic	Person/Group	Next step
Approved	Campus wireless strategy	Committee	The strategy will move on to SITC for consideration.
Approved	Unified Communications strategy	Committee	The strategy will move on to SITC for consideration.