Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC)

MEETING MINUTES
Meeting held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 13, 2008 in EPC 304C

Members in attendance: David Anderson, Tabatha Becker, Peggy Beranek, Chris Carruth, Ed Chow, Jackie Crouch, Karen Greis, Jan Kemper, Kirk Moore, Daniel Szarkowski, Jerry Wilson

OLD BUSINESS
1. **IT Updates**
   Jerry reported that:
   a. **Paw Prints**
      Kirk has worked out a solution to the problem of the database locking up, but with Scott Carter out with an ill parent and the security campaign taking up so much of everyone's time, Paw Prints is currently on a back burner.
   b. **Security campaign**
      A recent scan has detected the last of the remaining SSNs, and users with them on their systems have been notified.
   c. **iTunes U**
      He has registered us with iTunes U, and a representative will be here at 11:30 on March 24 in the IT Conference Room to discuss setting up our account, coordinating with LDAP, etc.
   d. **Wireless**
      Even the IT Director has had difficulty setting up his laptop to get onto WPA; IT is looking into making the process easier.
   e. **Phone System/VoIP**
      The campus has nearly run out of 262 phone prefixes. (Only 2000 of them were purchased; an additional 400 277 prefixes were purchased more recently, which are being used in about half of housing.)
      With the desire to have all the campus on a single prefix, we are looking into purchasing a different one. The phone company will do a prefix search to determine what is available; a meeting is scheduled with Qwest next week.
      This of course will be a huge issue for the whole campus, as all hard copy and web materials will have to be updated with new phone numbers. Departments will need to be alerted to purchase only as much letterhead, etc., as they need to get them through until the transition. There is no date estimate for this yet, but January is a tentative target.
      Since the VoIP system would also have to be changed as well, it makes more sense to roll it out at the same time as the phone prefix transition, rather than this summer as originally planned.

2. **LMS Search Update**
    David reported that:
    a. **ANGEL**
        He was presented with a web demonstration of the beta version of their algorithmic questions. He identified a concern having to do with significant figures and tolerance on numeric answers, and will look into it more closely once he is able to play with the beta himself (hopefully soon).

        ANGEL representatives will be here to give a demonstration of their product on April 4, tentatively scheduled to meet with IT staff in the morning, and with faculty and other interested persons from 12:00-2:00. Once confirmed, an announcement will be sent out.
    b. **Desire2Learn**
        He also saw a webinar demonstration of D2L. It looks comparable to ANGEL (both of which look far superior to Blackboard), but also has some apparent quirks in its algorithmic questions. He recently received login instructions to get into a sandbox account to look at things more closely; will send those instructions to ITAC members shortly.

        A D2L demonstration is tentatively scheduled for April 25. Once confirmed, an announcement will be sent out.

NEW BUSINESS
1. **SPSS**
    David and Jerry explained an issue with SPSS:
    - Each time the lab computers get reimaged, the SPSS license key gets reset, and we have to get a new key from SPSS.
    - SPSS used to give us new keys willingly, but they are now refusing, saying that we should purchase a 50-user network license for $58,000 (as opposed to the $9,300 we've been paying for 78 individual licenses).
    - Another option would be to pay the $9,300 for new individual licenses each time the computers are reimaged, but as that could conceivably happen several times a year, it may not be cost effective.
    - Jerry will continue to pursue a lower cost for SPSS than what they are proposing.
    - In the mean time—barring any unforeseen problems with the lab images—we can probably continue to use our current SPSS licenses at least until fall.

    In a recent meeting with several SPSS users, all agreed that while switching from SPSS to SAS would be a lot of work, it's not entirely out of the question. Interested parties should look into SAS to see what it has to offer and whether or not it would be workable. (Either individual licenses or a network license for SAS would cost about what we are currently paying for SPSS.)

    All in all, we hope to be able to continue using SPSS, but something has to be done about either getting the price down or coming up with more funds to pay for it.

2. **Admitted Student Accounts**

    Tony described a problem in which newly admitted students need to take various placement exams on Moodle, but can't do so because their campus accounts are not activated until they actually enroll in courses. However, they can't enroll until they take the placement exams to determine for what courses they are eligible. It's a catch-22. Jerry assured him that there should be a way in which Moodle can access those accounts (created when students are admitted) even before they are activated.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next ITAC meeting will be held at 9:30 on Thursday, April 10, 2008 in EPC 304C.

Please report any corrections or omissions to David Anderson at danderso@uccs.edu.