

# Information Technology Council Meeting

Tuesday – March 5, 2024

3:30 – 5:00 pm

## Minutes

Chair Jeff Coiner, CIO called the session to order at 3:36 pm and a quorum was present.

**Members' Present:** Jeff Coiner (Chair), David Young (West Plains Representative) (Remote), Thomas Peters, William Hader, Brad Davidson, Dr. Elizabeth Walker, Conner Neal (SGA), Angela Barker, Ken McCrory (Remote), Kevin Piercy and Ian Alaimo

**Also, present:** Theresa McCoy and Nicole Muse

1. Welcome Jeff Coiner
  - Minutes approved and posted from 02.06.2024
  
2. SCUF Proposals & Budget Greg Rainwater &  
Kevin Piercy

Greg Rainwater and Kevin Piercy discussed the Student Computer Usage Fees. If new computers and printers were purchased as we have in the past there would be a shortfall of \$380,000 to \$400,000. There is a possibility of using one-time funding from reserves, but that is not sustainable over multiple years. There will be additional budget discussions soon which will include SCUF. The council will vote on proposed SCUF requests for the coming year on March 26, 2024.
  
3. Strategy for Technology Infrastructure, Data Centers, and Cloud Jeff Coiner & Theresa  
McCoy

The strategy for technology infrastructure, includes moving services to the cloud and virtualizing equipment. Some equipment has been eliminated from the Blair Shannon Data Center which is allowing us to rethink the overall footprint required for university computer systems and how we plan to use it.

We discussed the current and future footprint of MSU data center(s). Mr. Coiner showed a diagram of the current data center space. They plan to purchase equipment racks with integrated cooling and add fire suppression for the new, smaller data center space.

We reviewed the new footprint of the building and the changes that will be made to the hallway. They also talked about the current classroom on the south side of the building that will be turned into an active learning classroom space. The contractors decided to remove Cheek 102 classroom to make space for more offices and research labs. They also plan to convert the graduate student lounge into an open access computer lab. Also, there is the plan to move classrooms out of the basement and use it for storage and network equipment. The basement is an isolated space with no public access, and there is elevator entree from the outside.

4. Updates/Reminders All
- **Sunday, April 28, 2024**
    - Banner Q1 upgrades being applied to production from 6 am to 6 pm
  - **Sunday, May 26, 2024**
    - Information Services Upgrade Day

5. Other items All

The council talked about the challenges of implementing Microsoft Copilot in the university. There are potential equity and access concerns that arise with licenses for CoPilot and other AI tools. They discussed the cost of the CoPilot license, which is \$30.00 per month, per user. There are no educational discounts currently. There was mention that the CIO's office needs to approve access through the IT Purchase Request process and that they are not currently approving individual purchase of Copilot.

There was talk about creating a team to collect data on how they are using AI tools. They also discussed prompt engineering, which is how to phrase things to get the desired results. We talked about Microsoft's package for customer service staff and customers for self-service and how it can be tied into their own data.

Follow-up tasks:

- Artificial Intelligence: Explore the use of copilot and other AI tools and share best practices (Copilot license holders)
- IT Procurement Purchase request process: Discuss how to streamline and simplify the process (Jeff and CIO)
- IT Project Management: Develop a strategy for better project management based on the innovation retreat (CIO and Information Services leaders)

6. Next meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024
- 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
  - Meeting in Cheek Hall 100

The members of the IT Council did not have any other business to discuss.  
The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.