IT Governance Program – Research Technologies Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2022
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Attendance

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<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>Dr. Raymundo Arroyave</th>
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<th>Dr. Darren Depoy</th>
<th>Dr. Honggao Liu</th>
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<td>Dr. Jack Baldauf</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>William Deigaard</td>
<td>X Dr. Laura Mandell</td>
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<td>Dr. Hassan Bazzi</td>
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<td>Dr. Nick Duffield</td>
<td>Dr. Ed Pierson</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Aaron Brender</td>
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<td>Dr. Carl Gregory</td>
<td>Dr. Korok Ray</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Dr. Dilma Da Silva</td>
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<td>Dr. Andrew Klein</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Sardaryzadeh</td>
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ITG Program Support

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<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>Sharon Mainka</th>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Missy Mouton</td>
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ESC Guests

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<td>Josh Kissee</td>
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Minutes: Scheduled Business

Item 1: Welcome & Announcements
Description: General welcome and opportunity for announcements and items of interest relevant to the committee.

- Received an email from Honggao Liu and discussed this report first.

Item 2: STAR – STRIDES Initiative Update
Description: Update on the Secure Technologies for Aggie Researchers initiative

- Josh Kissee discussed this item on the agenda. Josh shared a slide presentation discussing the STAR (Secure Technologies for Aggie Researchers) initiative.
- STAR has been live since July 27, 2020. Goal is to make more grants available this year.
- Email Star@tamu.edu for more information.
Item 3: Research Data Storage Plan Report

Description: Discussion on data storage plan report from the previous year.
- On-prem, hybrid, cloud options
- Globus

- Laura Mandell began discussing this item on the agenda with an email received from Dr. Honggao Liu and what this would need to go forward. This email was shared in Teams.

Laura- The university is changing. The bigger thing that is happening is that the kinds of services we rely on locally by staff are being consolidated to save money. One division of TAMU is being given control over many aspects of our daily work. Feels this could be very bad or detrimental. IT services may be required to take over in a consolidation strategy without the funds to do so. In this climate of change, carefully moving into consolidation in a way so nothing gets lost or shut down is very important.

- Thoughts/Comments:
  Chris Seabury- Discussed some historical data of things discussed in Honggao's email. With previous administration, there were things that were deemed priority and data storage was one of those. There was power struggle with different administrative units and what they wanted to be accomplished.
  Josh: Case by case basis and cloud may not be the answer every time. What is also missing is the total cost. Not advocating that cloud is always the answer for everything nor is it always the cheapest.
  Darren: Key attribute to something that will work is understandability.
  Laura: Great thing about Stride is the consultation.
  Darren: Agree but understandability and predictability of the cost is everything and the key.
  Josh: Part of the grant program with STAR is meeting with the researchers. If something like this were to expand, need to know the amount of resources needed. Would have to have more staff for the custom consultation, but some things can be the same.
  Laura: Not suggested the expansion of Stride but partnering with researchers.
  Sharon: Good opportunity for us to revisit the report and get it in front of Ed so it is known that we need to focus on this.
  William Deigaard: Share the report regarding Research Data Storage.
  Aaron: Other issue is could be looking at a policy for researchers to justify the costs. How would that be addressed.
  Chris: Seems to be a thinking that any funding is somehow in conflict with HPC though we don’t do long-term solution there. Part of the pushback is to justify spending that amount on storage is somehow in conflict with HPC but don’t feel that is true. Someone in admin may have a better answer to that. But not really understanding the pushback there.
  Until now, no one really commented on the cost. IT was probably a recommendation that needed a new org structure to happen.

- New working group formed:
  Darren Depoy, Laura Mandell, William Deigaard with Joshua Kissee and Chris Seabury in an advisory capacity.
Other business:
  • Aaron: couple of meetings ago discussed policy and services duplicated across sites. Communication issues and needs to be revisited how that information can be consolidated. Leaning toward div of research being introductory point. This would take in depth conversation later, just wanted to make sure that this didn’t drop off the radar.