



Ad Hoc Faculty Senate IT Committee Meeting

19 May 2023

11:00 AM, 1008B Center for Computation and Technology

Minutes of the Meeting

I. **Call to Order:** Singh called meeting to order at 11 am

II. **Roll Call**

Present: Param Singh (Chair), Gerry Knapp, Juana Moreno, Fabio Del Piero, Sam Robison, Jeffrey Roland, Craig Woolley (Ex-officio), Sumit Jain (Ex-officio), Scott Baldrige (special advisor)

Absent: Ken Lopata, Fanny Ramirez, Larry Smolinsky

III. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

IV. **Ad Hoc FS IT Meeting Minutes Approval from 17 May 2023:** After minor amendments Knapp moved to approve the minutes. Roland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. **Unfinished Business**

- **Discussion on IT Policy PS-121**

- Singh informed that to get input on the issue of allowed open licenses for PS-121-ST3 (B), as asked by the committee in the meeting on 5/17/23, he reached out to 16 experts in LSU and received feedback. Singh informed that he would like to show comments from Brant Faircloth, Ken Lopata and Alex Perlis. Started reading comments signed by 21 faculty members from Genomics Working Group within the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science sent by Brant Faircloth. The comments stated "... select policies (or their components) are overly strict or poorly considered relative to the scope of research performed at LSU. As a result, we are concerned that these will place an undue burden on our research and teaching activities. We are also concerned with some components of certain policies that seem quite general and open to various interpretations. Finally, components of these policies will serve to increase the bureaucracy we already face on a daily basis (which is *substantial*)." The comments further stated "Overall, it seems that the problematic components of these IT policies arise because LSU has been considered as a business entity with strictly defined purposes, roles, and procedures rather than the **dynamic institution of academic research and teaching that we are.**" And that "*We feel that the policies outlined below are detrimental to research productivity within our department, and that some may be in direct conflict with funding mandates. Both of these impacts negatively affect the competitiveness of LSU researchers for federal grant funds.*" The comment further stated "Of those policies outlined, we find

the problems we discuss relative to PS-121-ST-3 (Applications Acceptable Use), PS 132-ST-1 (Endpoint Protection), PS-132-ST-6 (Endpoint Application Management) to be the most concerning because these:

1. Place a burden on all researchers to fill out IT100 forms for every application they need to install (which can run into the hundreds for computationally oriented scientists).

2. Require the installation of monitoring software on “university owned” hardware without a clear privacy policy (or any discussion of how privacy will be maintained).

3. Remove the ability of individuals purchasing computer hardware (e.g. on a grant or other funds) from serving as the administrator of their own machines. This is critical for many researchers and instructors – particularly those working in computationally oriented fields.”

- Knapp moved not to revisit things we have already approved and to include any comments received in a future round when committee revisits policies. Robison seconded. Singh and Roland noted that such an approach will be in conflict with the email of Faculty Senate on 4/27/23 which requested faculty across LSU to send the feedback to this committee by 5/31/23. Votes in favor: Knapp, Robison. Votes against: Del Piero, Moreno, Roland, Singh. Motion did not pass.
- Moreno moved to postpone the discussion of PS-121 to 5/25/23 meetings when Lopata returns from travel. Roland seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Discussion on IT Policy PS-120-ST4
 - PS-120-ST4(E) changed to

All policies and standards must follow University processes of policy review and approval processes. However, all new and/or updated policies and standards must also be reviewed by IT Governance Council (ITGC) subcommittees – Department IT Subcommittee and Research Technology Subcommittee, and Ad-hoc Faculty Senate IT Committee (FS IT Committee) prior to being submitted to ITGC for review and approval. Where applicable, stakeholders such as Subject Matter Experts, functional/technical teams impacted by policies, etc., should be included in the review process for new and/or updates to policies and standards.

Any changes to baselines must be reviewed by LSUAM ITGC and/or its designee.
 - PS-120-ST4(F) changed to

Any request for a policy and/or standard exception must be submitted to Information Security Team.

 1. All exceptions must be evaluated by Information Security Team, in collaboration with the submitter and relevant stakeholders, to determine information security risk. The evaluation must be formally documented and agreed upon by all stakeholders.
 2. The exception requests would then be submitted for approval to LSUAM ITGC and/or its designee.
 3. A master document must be maintained for all exceptions.
 4. All exception requests must be evaluated on an annual basis, at minimum, unless exempted from the process by the exception approval process.
 5. If an exception request is denied, the submitter of the request can appeal the decision to the panel of Chairs and/or designee of Department IT Subcommittee, Research Technology Subcommittee, and Ad-hoc Faculty Senate IT Committee (FS IT Committee).
 - Singh asked Woolley if revised PS-120-ST4(E) is in any conflict with the agreement signed between Office of Academic Affairs, ITS and this committee on 5/15/23.

Woolley replied that he sees no conflict between the above paragraph and the signed agreement. Woolley also noted that ITGC has passed a resolution confirming the role of this committee in the process prior to approval of policies and standards. Roland stressed the importance of shared governance, faculty being the key stakeholders for IT matters, and the importance of upholding the spirit of the agreement and the above paragraph in future.

- Knapp moved that Faculty Senate bring it to the upper administration on defining the authority of this committee – whether it is advisory or whether it has more power in the approval process. Roland seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Discussion on IT Policy PS-122 and PS-123

Roland moved that we table the discussion of PS-122 and PS-123 to early June. Robison seconded. Passed unanimously.

- Discussion on IT Policy PS-124
 - Roland and Jain noted that the definition of assets still needs to be clarified.
 - Knapp moved to approve the main document of PS-124 with the caveat that the definition of assets needs to be revised. Roland seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - Lengthy discussion on Data Functional Owners in PS-124-ST1 led by Robison and Roland.

Meeting adjourned 12:31 pm.