Report of the 2017-2018 Faculty Senate Information Technology Policy Committee

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Last Year's ITPC Resolutions

1. Improve communication between ITS and faculty

2. Work on improved grants management software

3. Develop comprehensive backup plan for faculty and research computing

2017-2018 ITPC Charge

Charge 1: Improve communication between ITS and faculty

Charge 2: Work with ITS, RPOC, and ORAF on post-award software plan for Sept. 2018

Charge 3: Work with RPOC, LPOC, ITS, Provost's Office, Library to recommend integrated services to support research data

2017-18 ITPC Activities

- Primary change has been inclusion of co-CIOs Mark Nardone and Karen McCarthy on ITPC
  - Has resulted in significant increase in communication, understanding, and level of faculty involvement in ITS activities
  - One concrete result is organization of visits by co-CIO's to faculty or Chair Council meetings of all 9 NU Colleges in Spring 2018
  - Another is active recruitment of faculty for several ITS initiatives including LMESC, portal testing, etc.
- Met with other ITS leaders, ORAF leaders, LPOC chair
- Participated in CIO interview process
- Details in our report

Specific Activities on our Charges

C1: Communication between ITS and faculty: both College visits and inclusion of ITS leaders on ITPC directly addressed this charge

C2-1: Post-award software: overtaken by ORAF decision to purchase / deploy Priority One

- minimal faculty involvement in decision or rollout
- Outcome / efficacy not yet clear

Specific Activities on our Charges

C2-2: More comprehensive effort to develop ePaws under way

- Requirements research by outside contractor underway
- Level of faculty involvement not yet clear

C3: Joint look at research data services

- Met with LPOC chair, email with RPOC chair
- Superseded by ITS / Provost consultant study of NU cloud strategy

Recommendations

1. Communication between ITS and faculty
   - *Continued presence of ITS on ITPC, College visit initiative, use of ITPC to recruit faculty for ITS involvement, etc.*
   - *However level of faculty involvement in IT decision-making needs to be stronger: Resolution #1*
2. Enhanced IT investment
   - *ITS resources seem to be inadequate to support faculty teaching and research*
   - *More IT personnel to support faculty, in particular, is needed*
3. Research Computing
   - *Need much broader support for heterogeneous nature of NU research computing; developed jointly by ITS and ITPC: Resolution #2*
4. Backup / data planning
   - *Continue current planning process but need both short-term and long-term plans: Resolution #3*

Resolution #1

WHEREAS the University administration is actively working to roll out a short-term software solution for grants management (Priority ONE), as well as a longer-term research management system with a significant software component (ePaws), and WHEREAS these initiatives are being led by ORAF, and WHEREAS integrated faculty and ITS involvement is essential for these and other software tools that impact faculty to effectively serve faculty needs,

BE IT RESOLVED that, as a matter of policy, ITPC, along with ITS, should have a formal role in decision-making process related to the design and delivery of ePaws and any other ongoing and future institutional software planning and rollout that will have a direct effect on teaching and research.

Resolution #2

WHEREAS the growth in size and diversity of research computing activities across Northeastern's Colleges requires more comprehensive and multi-pronged research computing support than is currently available, despite advances in recent years in ITS support for research computing,

BE IT RESOLVED **that ITPC and ITS should jointly develop a set of recommendations regarding IT services and staffing to broaden and deepen ITS support for research computing, and present the plan to the Senate by Dec 2018.**

Resolution #3

WHEREAS ITS and the Provost's Office are in the midst of an outside consultant review of cloud storage architecture and planning across the University,

BE IT RESOLVED that ITPC, ITS, and other relevant Senate committees should return in Fall 2018 to the 2016-2017 approved Senate resolution on backup, and the 2017-2018 charge to multiple standing committees to coordinate with ITS and other stakeholders to design a comprehensive backup/data storage plan for academic and research computing and develop an appropriate strategy to implement it.