

Technology Advisory Board (TAB) Committee

March 12, 2021

Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Joel Reeves, Jennifer Gramling, **Suzie Allard**, **Larry Jennings**, Emily Gore, Jolyon Gray, Jessie Grieser, **Bomi Lee**, **Igor Bernardi**, **Ben Pham**, Chandler Lampe, Nick Corbin, Evan Pindrock, **Joseph Syracuse**, (bold indicates present)

1. Welcome

- Joel welcomed everyone to the TAB meeting. The meeting began at 3:31 pm.

2. Updates

- Google
 - o Joel Reeves said that offering Google as an additional email option to faculty and staff was at no additional cost to the University until now. Google has decided that if over 100TB of storage is needed it will come at a cost.
 - o Joel Reeves would like to hear the opinions on Google vs Microsoft and the interactions with faculty in which suite they prefer and why.
 - o OIT was at a point where Gmail would be allowed for faculty to use when OIT was notified that Google was going to have multiple tiers of Google Workspace for Education beginning in July 2022, and the no-charge option would not meet our current storage needs .
 - o It will cost the University approximately \$200,000-\$300,000 a year which breaks down to about \$5 per student for a University wide license. If you only get licenses for those who want to use Gmail it is approximately \$48.00 per year.
 - o Cancelling the contract with Microsoft is not an option. Microsoft is tied into the campus agreement which allows everyone to have access to the Microsoft Suite.
 - o Joel Reeves and Larry Jennings have a list of software that is provided to everyone. There have been past requests for additional software such as Dropbox and Slack. Google and Microsoft offer the same or similar functions as these other software packages.
 - o Igor Bernardi said that he has a personal Dropbox that he pays for out of his pocket because he feels like it is something he needs. He said he does not use Google.
 - o Ben Pham said that due to a large number of students using Google Docs and Google Slides to complete assignments he feels like it is useful. Ben said that he believes students could transition to Microsoft suite, but it would be difficult to do from a technological standpoint because a lot of classrooms rely on team drives.
 - o Bomi Lee said that her instructors use Google Drive to share articles for research.
 - o Joseph Syracuse said that he and his classmates use Google Drive, and he feels that it is an integral part of the class.
 - o Joel Reeves asked if Google is being used because that is what was used during K-12 or does Google work that much better. Joseph Syracuse said that he hasn't

used Microsoft very much, but he assumes the functions are not that different. Joseph said he is just more accustomed to using Google.

- o Jolyon Gray said that his 3 children who are approaching college age are a mixed bag of using Google and Microsoft. He believes it relies heavily on what the incoming students are accustomed to using.
- o Suzie Allard said that speaking from a faculty point of view, the reason many individuals are using Google is because it has been a lot easier to work with people that are outside of UT. It is much easier to get people onto Google Docs. Google Docs allows several people to work on one document simultaneously. Microsoft is superior for final formatting once a project is in its final stages and there is no longer a need for people to work simultaneously. Each product has its strengths.
- o Joel Reeves said that Google is a pretty significant expense, and that money would not come easily. OIT has changed several products over the past year. These products were changed because they were better functionally. Zoom was upgraded to Zoom Pro and is now available to all students, Proctorio replaces Respondus Lockdown Monitor, and the HelpDesk Software was upgraded from Footprints to TeamDynamix. TeamDynamix has been very well received on the OIT and administrative side and has added a lot of value. Through TeamDynamix we were able to use a process for contract tracing for COVID which has saved half an FTE a year.
- o Jolyon Gray asked if there are any policy differences between Google and Microsoft on how our data is protected. Joel Reeves said that they both have BAA from a HIPAA perspective and both deal with FERPA. Jolyon asked if Google could view content that is being stored. Joel said they do not view content that is stored, the agreements that are signed specify that our data is our data. The data is encrypted at rest and in transit.
- o Joel will be meeting with the Faculty Senate and Library Committee on March 23rd and will discuss this further at that time.
- o Joel Reeves said that Jessie Grieser's point was when she is using Google Docs and other Google services to collaborate, the email integration makes it much more superior than having to switch back to Outlook. This helps her be more productive.
- Proctorio
 - o Proctorio is now available on a limited basis to the faculty to do online proctoring
 - o Proctorio replaces Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor. Proctorio comes highly regarded as far as proctoring tools go. We had a statewide group look at Proctorio prior to purchase. The College of Business had a few classes use it this week. We are allowing a little more time for the staff at OIT to get some infrastructure in place rather than just turning them on. There was a lot of desire to get away from Respondus.
 - o Ben Pham said that he sits in on some committees who were reviewing Proctorio and two other lockdown browsers. He feels that Proctorio was the best of the three.
- FY21 College/Departmental Award Process
 - o The deadline for request submissions is in two weeks, March 26, 2021.

- There has been request that have come in for those who did not use all the money from last year.
 - Joel Reeves mentioned that there is usually over two million dollars in requests. These requests have to be trimmed down to a million dollars.
 - At the next TAB meeting we will review the requests.
 - Larry Jennings said that on occasion the TAB meeting may run longer than the scheduled hour when TechFee Requests are being analyzed.
 - The information for the TechFee requests will be sent out prior to the next meeting so everyone has a chance to review the information prior to the meeting.
- Survey Summary
 - Joel Reeves will go over the survey summary with this group as soon as possible. It may not be at the next meeting since the TechFee requests will probably take up most of the time for that meeting.
 - Suzie Allard said that she encourages her people to fill out the survey. She sees that the surveys are greatly taken into consideration.
 - Igor Bernardi said he also has encouraged people to fill out the survey.

3. New Business

- No new business at this time.

4. Other Business

- Adobe
 - Joel Reeves said that from time to time he receives an email about Adobe. He understands that Adobe is a very powerful suite for things like photo shop but at the end of the day that is another multi hundred-dollar investment. There is not a large enough campus wide demand for Adobe.
 - Students have access to Adobe through the labs, but Adobe isn't interested in letting that happen virtually.
 - A specified number of licenses were given to those who needed Adobe from past number and that was funded through the Cares funding. The Cares funding will go away this year.
 - Suzie Allard said that if there is a more cost-effective alternative to please let her know.

5. Adjournment

- Joel Reeves adjourned the meeting at 4:08 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 23, 2021 at 3:30 pm via Zoom

Minutes submitted by Mary Mebine