Information Services Governance Committee

Wednesday 14th March 2018

M I N U T E S

Mr. Andrew Grainger
Professor Graham Hart
Mrs. Lori Houlihan
Mr Rex Knight
Professor David Lomas
Ms. Collette Lux
Professor Ivan Parkin
Professor Alan Penn
Professor David Price
Professor Geraint Rees
Mrs Fiona Ryland
Mr. Tom Rowson
Professor Anthony Smith
Dr. James McCafferty
Mr. Alan Harper (partial attendance)
Dr. Fiona Strawbridge (partial attendance)
Mr Jeremy Speller (partial attendance)
Ms. Clare Gryce (partial attendance)
Apologies:
Mr. Simon Cane
Mr Philip Harding
Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker
Professor Alan Thompson

2.6   Professor Parkin commented positively on the deployment of Faraday (High Performance Computing facility) and the 100% deployment of LectureCast in Chemistry.

2.7   Professor Hart asked about Windows 10 deployment for older PCs (approximately 30% of all ICH machines are too old or below spec for Windows 10). Dr McCafferty replied that the project isn't thought of or deployed for upgrades. These need to be handled through the normal PC refresh arrangements in departments.

Approved:

2.8   The ISGC approved the Digital Masterplan January 2018 Update

3.   18/03/03 IT FY 18/19 capital funding allocations

Noted:

3.1   Dr Cope summarised key aspects of the paper, including: the high demands on IT; changing allocations between domains; and the needs of the Admin Domain and Infrastructure domains. He also highlighted future options of funding through TOPS and the potential new financial strategy for IT capital funding.

Discussion

3.2   The Provost commented on affordability constraints, given impacts of pension and pay settlement discussions.

3.3   Dame Nicola commented positively on the recent Tableau deployment for data warehouse reporting.

3.4   Professor Rees asked about some key topics: bolstering High Performance Computing (HPC); Management Information; and Wifi between buildings. Dr Cope replied that HPC has had the benefit of high external investment (circa £5M in recent years) and that will continue if we can adopt the new financial IT capital strategy. Management information, eg Tableau and the data warehouse will continue to grow. And for wifi, the main cost is deployment within (older) buildings. Wifi in external spaces will be addressed if we can secure the level of IT capital funding envisaged in the new financial strategy.

3.4   Professor Price expressed concern about the reduction in research IT funding proposed in the IT capital allocations. While supportive of the need to increase the allocations to administration and infrastructure, he made the point that the research community are very sensitive to apparent reduction in capital investment. He and Dr Cope would separately look at options to reallocate RCIF funding to return research IT funding to the previously planned level

3.5   Professor Penn asked about ongoing investment in SITS/Portico. Ms Apple replied that recent investment levels had not been high enough, but that is being addressed with the funding for the AMP.

3.6   Dr Caulcott made the point that UCL needs an Innovation Domain, especially given KEF, CRM demands, Innovation Ledgers etc. Although not currently in the mix domain, this is to be funded.

3.7   The Provost accepted that there is lots of pressure for IT spend.

Actions:

3.8   The proposed IT capital allocations proposed in the paper were agreed but Dr Cope was asked to consult with colleagues about the possibility of reallocating RCIF and TCIF funding to return the Education IT and Research IT funding levels back to their previous levels. A paper to be presented at the next ISGC meeting.

4.   18/03/04 Information Security Update (highly restricted)

Noted:

4.1   Restricted

Discussion:

4.2   Restricted

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5.   18/03/05 Update on IT Service Performance

Noted:

5.1   Dr McCafferty gave an update on IT Service Performance (paper 18/03/05). This focussed on recent critical incidents, IT service desk performance, Moodle performance, and overall IT service availability.

6.   18/03/06 Update on other key initiatives

Noted:

6.1   Dr Cope presented on some key initiatives (paper 18/03/06): Management Information (MI); Space Availability; MyHR and Data Centre Migration.

Discussion:

6.2   For MI, the need to improve data quality was recognised, and this will require renewed focus going forward

6.3   For the Data Centre migration, Dr Cope confirmed that Wool House was officially handed over to HS2 to the agreed timescales, at the end of February.

7.   18/03/07 Software license management policy

Noted:

7.1   Dr Cope presented the updated paper (18/03/07) from a previous meeting, with feedback having been incorporated.

Approved:

7.2   The updated Software license management policy was approved

8.   18/03/08 AOB

Discussion:

8.1   There were no AOB items

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