

Campus Computing Committee

March 05, 2014

1. **Committee Members:** Rosario Durao, Raul Morales-Juberias, Mehrdad Razavi, Abdelmounaam Rezgui, Tie Wei, Jun Zheng
Ex-Officio: Lisa A. Beinhoff, Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming, unknown (SA), Mike Topliff, Bryan Watson (GSA)
2. **Chairperson:** Jun Zheng was elected chairperson
3. **Audit Requirements:** the increase in federal funds that NMT receives caused additional audit requirements to go into effect.
 - a. The previous audit had an audit finding noting the absence of a Disaster Recovery Plan, a Disaster Recovery Facility, and a test of the plan. The Board of Regents requested that a plan be developed, facilities be acquired, and the plan tested.
 - b. As part of President López's plan to consolidate Information Technology (IT), the TCC and ISD wrote a plan and acquired off-site facilities. Network connections were activated and hardware installed.
 - c. Tests were conducted whereby the ISD servers on campus were shut down and the servers at the Disaster Recovery Site (DRS) were activated without problem. The Payroll Department then processed one payroll at the DRS without problem. The TCC is currently installing hardware and software and will begin testing over Spring Break. Other administrative departments will conduct tests this year.
 - d. The current audit no longer contains an audit finding relating to Disaster Recovery.
 - e. Academic departments are encouraged to meet with the consolidated IT organization to discuss utilizing the DRS.
4. **Data Center:** also part of President López's plan to consolidate IT is the renovation and expansion of the existing ISD Data Center to house the TCC servers. Academic departments will also be able to locate their servers in this Data Center.
5. **Authentication:** another part of President López's plan to consolidate IT is the centralization and consolidation of the authentication server (LDAP). In the future the ISD Banner username and password, the TCC username and password, the wireless username and password, and other services that require authentication verification will be done through one server. This means that you can use just one username and password to access all such services.
6. **Storage:** the consolidated IT will build a centralized disk storage and increase the disk space for the faculty and students.
7. **Email:** the consolidated IT will outsource the email service. The two finalists for this service are Google Apps and Microsoft 365.
8. **Compliance:** the centralized IT was asked by Vice President Marquez to ensure IT compliance with applicable State, Federal, and Local Laws & Regulations, as well as NMT and Internet Policies and Procedures, and to recommend the implementation of best computing and management practices. A web site is being developed and the compliance effort will:
 - a. Protect information found throughout the University
 - b. Conduct risk assessments on all sensitive information
 - c. Promote IT and data security related training and awareness programs

- d. Monitor University systems via auditing and compliance activities in support of the University's mission and goals.
9. **Security:** problems were reported where NMT servers and services had been compromised and then used to attack the NMT network and computers at other sites in the US and across the world. A security project team consisting of: Lorie Liebrock, Dean of Graduate Studies; Max Planck, Technical Director of ICASA; Alan Roes, IT Branch Director of EMRTC; Mike Topliff, Director of TCC, was asked by Vice President Marquez to review the current problems and work with the Campus Computing Committee (CCC) to prepare a Security Policy for Information Technology. The CCC is reviewing the draft straw man proposal as a starting point for discussion to develop a final policy.
 10. **Cost:** the implementation of these security changes carries a cost. Current thinking is that two security professionals will be required. The NMT Computer Science department produces security professionals with starting salaries between \$70,000 and \$120,000.