UNM IT Research Technologies Advisory Board
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Scholes Hall, Roberts Room
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Chair: Patrick Bridges

Attendees: Karl Benedict, Tito Busani, Renia Ehrenfeucht, Mark Emmons, Kathryn Jacobson, Chris Lippett, Sylvia Celedon-Pattichis, Mark Servilla, Mary Tsiongas, Ariadna Vazquez, Jon Wheeler, Duane Arruti, Grace Faustino, Brian Pietrewicz

Support: D. Markham

Topics

1. Approval of Minutes (February 27, 2019 minutes approved without corrections.)

2. Informational Items:
   a. Data Collection Tool for Grand Challenges Initiative (Faculty Research Development Director Daniel)
      i. Faculty Research Development Director Daniel in support of the Grand Challenges shared with the committee that the 3 large interdisciplinary teams need data collection tools to support the initiative. Not all teams and team members have access to appropriate data collection tools. Director Daniel conveyed there is interest in using Qualtrics. The committee agreed Qualtrics is a robust tool that provides benefits to researchers both for this project and for others over Opinio. A Qualtrics enterprise license would be around $72,000 versus the $7,000 cost for Opinio. The current spend across main campus units for Qualtrics licenses is around $40,000. Director Daniel understands the complexity of the decision which includes the lack of funding for an enterprise license as well as balancing this for units that are already using and paying for Qualtrics’ licenses. Ensuring there is no negative impact on existing users is important, and access to Qualtrics or a similar data collection tool would be hugely beneficial to the Grand Challenges initiative. These projects span both main and HSC campuses. There was discussion regarding HSC use of Qualtrics. Privacy Office Vazquez advised most HSC faculty use Redcap. There was discussion about main campus faculty use of Redcap and if concerns about affiliated use of Redcap by main campus faculty had been resolved.

   Action Item: CIO Arruti will follow-up with CIO Braun regarding main campus use of Redcap.

   Director Bridges and other committee members agreed that an enterprise license for Qualtrics or a similar data collection is one of the top needs identified through the advisory board’s work.

   CIO Arruti related that Adobe licensing for students is being explored. CIO Arruti advised SVP White has requested the CIO office identify key interdisciplinary
software tools a majority of researchers are using and the associated costs. This will be used to develop an outline of priorities for further review by SVP White’s office.

b. EDUCAUSE Survey
   i. IT Manager Faustino related that UNM IT uses data from the EDUCAUSE research computing survey to benchmark UNM technology services against other 4-year institutions. The survey provides information about technology services that support faculty research, high performance computing, etc. relative to our peers. In areas where we are below our peers, we can reach out to those institutions to identify best practices for improving services. The survey will be distributed in July. IT Manager Faustino asked if the operational subcommittee would be the best group to provide responses for reliable benchmarking data. Committee members agreed to this suggestion with no further discussion. This survey represents a university-wide response rather than for responses from individual users.

c. Subcommittee Launch
   i. Director Bridges reviewed with the committee the current list of subcommittee members. Representatives for the College of Fine Arts and for Engineering are needed.

   **Action Item:** – Committee members for CFA and Engineering will advise IT Manager Faustino who should be invited to join the subcommittees.

d. Proposed Schedule for both Subcommittees
   i. Director Bridges reviewed the subcommittee timelines. The scoring subcommittee’s work starts after the operational subcommittee since the rubric is pending development based on items forwarded for review.

   **Action Item:** Committee members should provide feedback on the timelines to Director Bridges and IT Manager Faustino.

   Since the work of the operational committee is to triage requests, they should be able to do much of their work remotely. The scoring committee’s work will be less frequent but may be completed more efficiently by meeting in person.

   **Action Item:** Associate Professor Alex Webb from Architecture will added to scoring subcommittee.

3. Decision Items:
   a. Signing of Charters for the Operational Subcommittee and the Scoring Subcommittee (CARC/Director Bridges, IT Manager Faustino)
      i. Charters were signed.

4. Open Floor
   a. The committee discussed which software packages should be elevated as high priorities. There needs to be a next step to guide decisions about software standardization and what set of tools all researchers should have access to that are funded institutionally. Zoom is already available institutionally. It needs to be determined if the estimated $72,000 cost for Qualtrics includes HSC researchers.
Action Item: CIO Arruti will confirm.

Director Bridges asked how the value of Qualtrics for research support can be determined quantitatively. The committee agreed Qualtrics is a more robust tool, but the value for broader usage should be determined. It would be useful to understand how many researchers would have used Qualtrics if it were available institutionally or if they could have afforded it. Associate Dean Jacobson can provide how many Anderson faculty use Qualtrics and how it compares to Opinio. Associate Professor Lippitt asked if IRB can provide a breakdown by college on how many projects are using data collection; they may also be able to advise if one tool over another is more easily approved for projects. Director Bridges asked who at COE or A&S could provide data about use and/or interest in Qualtrics. Senior Associate Dean Celedon-Pattichis advised Ed Psych and Health Sciences are the most likely groups to use Qualtrics. Associate Dean Jacobson asked if it would be more useful to use a simple 2 question survey to determine what faculty are using or would be interested in using.

Action Item: IT Manager Faustino will develop the survey and request the All-Fac committee and Provost’s office promote.

The committee discussed if research administrators and research staff should be asked to participate. The committee agreed that it could be useful to include this group if they are differentiated from faculty to ensure responses aren’t duplicated. If staff are not included, the basis for this should be included in the message sent with the survey. The committee discussed if and how HSC should be included in the survey. This question and finalizing the survey will be discussed offline.

b. Associate Dean Emmons relayed that the infrastructure group has met and is evaluating if there is overlap in their work relative to other working groups. This group asked how this year’s work will differ from last year’s. Director Bridges advised the working groups will review the current state for key issues identified last year. They will develop an approach and proposal for what is needed (infrastructure, networking, platform, storage, data center, etc.) to move forward with addressing the identified issues.

Action Item: CIO Arruti asked this board and will ask the other advisory boards to develop funding proposals for executive leadership to consider. If funds could be identified and earmarked, each board would be able to move initiatives forward they have determined are essential to solve institutional needs.

Associate Professor Lippitt suggested a funding proposal should speak to the larger issue of how research IT is funded in support of a broader case for institutional research funding. Director Bridges agreed that since 40% of a faculty’s responsibility is to complete research it would make sense for there to be an institutional support of research. CIO Arruti supports parallel efforts to identify one-time funding to move ahead with some priorities while continuing discussions of how to fund IT overall including research needs. CIO Arruti sees progress in the move to partially fund academic technologies through a student technology fee. Evaluating how to fund research IT could be the work of a subcommittee working with IT Director Martinez. Deputy CIO Pietrewicz advised that the model can be developed if there is specific information about the costs associated. Costs are currently captured for sponsored research spending. Self-funded or
research funded through outside sources are uncaptured costs at this point. Currently identified spending also doesn’t include the full need as previous surveys to identify all research costs have highlighted there are “haves” and “have nots”. The need of “have nots” will need to be captured to have a full institutional picture of research IT needs and associated costs. The committee agreed it would be beneficial for the working groups to develop funding proposals in parallel with the budget subcommittee.

**Motion:** A motion was made to establish a subcommittee budget working group with Kirsten Martinez, Renia Ehrenfeucht, Chris Lippitt or another A&S representative, and Nicole Dopson as the initial group members.

**Motion approved.**

**Action Item:** Suggestions for additional committee members for the budget subcommittee should be sent to Director Bridges.

**Decision Item:** Assistant Professor Wheeler will replace Kevin Comerford on the operations subcommittee.

**Next Meeting:** *April 24, 2019 1-2:30 pm Scholes Hall, Roberts Room*