

2023-2024 | TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL (TAC)

**MINUTES**

Date: September 27, 2023

Time: 10:00am

Location: Stephens Conference Room

**Present:** Brendan Beal, Cassie Raulston, Aaron Mahaney, Amanda Fox, Hilary Dutton, Wesley Hallman, Wyatt Hall, Alicia Smith, Abbie Clark, Joe Walsh, Barbara Ann Lewis, Tomeiko Scott, Sheila Brandt, Kira Thomas

**Absent:** Steve Peters, George Lytle, Marcus Lane, Shafqat Shad, Kathy Adams, Coty Jones, Amiee Mellon

**Guests:** n/a

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:01am.
2. Wesley Hallman, the new TAC co-chair, introduced himself and his new role on the council. The rest of the members also went around and introduced themselves.
3. The previous two meeting's minutes were approved.
4. The council's membership was discussed. Some new members are replacing old members. The subcommittee's membership was also discussed and the chair identified--with the exception of University Operations subcommittee, which will remain on pause until needed.

Deleted: were

Deleted: for them also

Also, it was decided and approved to empower the chairs of the subcommittees to remove/add members at their will in order to keep a fresh, rotating group of staff and faculty on them.

5. We elected a new Secretary of the TAC, Hilary Dutton.
6. CIO Updates (Joe Walsh):
  - a. The classroom redesign/renovation process has changed from its exclusive focus on classroom technology to the comprehensive renovation of campus learning spaces. This process will become a collaborative one that involves, IS&T, the Physical Plant, and the requesting department or

individual. Requests will comprehensively focus on academic technology; physical space renovations such as flooring, painting, and lighting; and furniture. Tentatively, a capital projects budget will be established at the beginning of each fiscal year, from which learning space renovation requests, made through the TAC's Academic Support Subcommittee can be funded. (Barbara Ann)

- b. Connie Wyatt, IT Coordinator and Asset Specialist, retired at the end of June. Pamela Smith, formerly the administrative assistant to the Department of Music, has been hired as Connie's replacement in a slightly modified role entitled, Asset Coordinator.
- c. An offer has been extended by IS&T's Business Support Services to the top candidate for the Applications/SQL Administrator position left open by Tomeka Jones' transition to Director of Academic Support.
- d. Brett Simmons has been hired as an IT Analyst I in Academic Support and Adam Burdett as Technical Support Analyst I in the Solution Center. Both are recent UM graduates and exemplary employees.
- e. Funding for and Assistant Database Administrator (DBA) has been approved and that position has now been posted. The individual in that position will assist current DBA, Robert Segrest.
- f. Academic Support and the Solution Center replaced over 100 computers across campus this summer, beginning the transition from leased Lenovo and Apple computers to purchased Dell and Apple computers.
- g. The following learning spaces were renovated or updated this summer:
  - a. Pat Scales Collection Room in Carmichael Library
  - b. Wills 120
  - c. Morgan 103 and 105
  - d. Harmon 201
  - e. Davis 305
  - f. Block 204
- h. All Windows-based servers in the data center, which had reached end of life, have been replaced and are now fully functional. This upgrade was over \$200K.

Deleted: was

- i. In addition to the installation of new data center servers, IS&T's Operations and Cybersecurity team has completed the following projects since the last CIO update.
    - a. Installed fiber and wireless network at College Park Apartments.
    - b. Completed network maintenance and upgrades in all residence halls.
    - c. Installed the wireless network in Myrick (new nursing building).
    - d. Installed the wireless network at new AMSTI warehouse in Calera.
    - e. Performed numerous network installations or modifications associated with this summer's learning space renovations and Falcon Print printer replacements.
    - f. Installed network conduit across campus in conjunction with this summer's extensive electrical grid upgrade.
  - j. The software and hardware request processes have been streamlined and the associated request forms are now available. A general cleanup and streamlining of the IS&T website are also underway as preparation for the design and implementation of UM's new website sometime next year.
  - k. With faculty and staff returning this fall, there has been an influx of requests for third-party applications that integrate with Microsoft Office 365. For security reasons and based on standard and best practices, IS&T has had to restrict these requests. So far secure and approved alternatives have been provided and willingly accepted by the requesting faculty and staff.
  - l. Planning for an ongoing training series, Technology Tuesdays, is underway. It is hoped that these regularly scheduled training sessions will provide faculty and staff with an introduction to the wide range of current and forthcoming software available across campus.
7. Subcommittee Reports
- a. Academic Support - Barbara Ann discussed their plans to meet on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> and undertake ongoing business
  - b. Digital Communications - Kira and Amiee will be refreshing this committee's leadership soon
  - c. Executive - N/A

- d. Policies and Procedures - Wesley and Brendan discussed the need for this committee to meet to go over the email alias or "alternative email" policy. The subcommittee will try and meet next week
- e. Projects and Planning - Kathy Adams is still the chair but was not present so N/A
- f. University Operations - N/A

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt

8. Other Business

- a. Wesley announced that Numeric Technology and Juicebox were the vendors who are hired to redesign our school website.
- b. Wesley announced a follow-up email would be sent to try to find a consistent TAC meeting schedule for the group.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1", No bullets or numbering

9. Meeting was adjourned.