

Notes from the Information Security Advisory Council

Thursday, March 6, 2014
2:00 – 3:00p.m. (137A Calloway Peak Room, PSU)

In Attendance:

J.J. Brown, Lisa Burwell, Tim Burwell, Amy Carsons, Justin Cervero, Laramie Combs, Gunther Doerr, Ron Dubberly, Hank Foreman, David Jamison, Dan Jones, Matt Dull, Angie Miller, Beth Pouder, Norma Riddle, Amy Sanders, Anthony Santucci, Andrea Wawrzusin, Jim Webb (chair), Wyatt Wells

Opening Remarks – Cathy Bates

Cathy Bates began by welcoming and thanking all of the members for participating. The members of the council represent many areas on campus and were recommended by their vice chancellors to represent the different divisions on campus.

Cathy explained that IT security is a fine balance between keeping the campus data safe and allowing people to do their jobs. This Security Council must be agile and fluent, large decisions that require funding or higher university approval will be sent to the Executive Council which will be at a Cabinet level. Cathy described her vision for the committee in which everyone on the committee will be very involved, with everyone making a contribution.

The charge for the committee is “The governance group will provide direction for a cross-functional team which is comprised of business owners, application owners and support services from across the entire campus, as well as faculty and students.”

The Scope of the committee is formed around the organization of the portfolios. The Service Portfolios are organized by the type of service, putting services that are alike together. The committee needs to manage the portfolio by deciding:

- Are the right services in the portfolio?
- What services are missing?
- Are there duplications?
- Which services are working and which ones are not working?
- Are there too many services in the portfolio? Are there enough?
- Are the Services meeting the needs of the campus?

This group will spin up working groups and should offer frameworks, project management and coordinate with the right people.

This council is unique from the other portfolio committees because security must be overarching to all of the other portfolios. It is similar to the Infrastructure Portfolio committee which represents the foundation supporting the other portfolios.

IT Security - Jim Webb

After Cathy completed her opening remarks and answered questions, she turned over the meeting to the Chief Information Security Officer and chair of the Security Council – Jim Webb.

Jim went through a presentation for the council to make sure everyone was familiar with Information Security and its importance. Jim summarized how many thousands of individuals had entrusted Appalachian with their personal information.

He reviewed the 3 types of risks: confidentiality risks, availability risks, and integrity risk. Information Security is about managing risks instead of eliminating risks. Questions about managing risks include: identifying the biggest risks to the university and community and what actions can achieve a balance of risk and opportunity.

Some recent risks experienced by Appalachian are data loss, equipment theft/loss and recreational hacking. Newer risks include threats to our mobile devices, hacktivism and organized cybercrime. The balancing act is addressing the risks with high probability and high impact while accepting some of the low probability low impact risks.

Compliance Regulations also have to be considered. The management of our data is subject to compliance requirements. Our unique security challenges are the shared values of Academic Freedom, the fostering of experimentation, the free flow of information, reasonable privacy all while meeting data protection standards, the ability to detect and prevent attacks, and meet records requests. Information Security must be an organizational issue and a shared responsibility.

Information Security for the UNC System has been formalized, so this council does not have to start from scratch. The council has some security policy examples to begin from. Jim will present the council with a draft to begin working with to adjust the language.

Work for the Council

Questions for the council: How often to meet? What needs to be done? Target dates? How will this group work with the other portfolio groups? What needs to come to this council?

Assessment of where we are, Security Policy, Security Awareness, Incident Response Group,

Prioritization of the risks: what are the risks and the gaps? What needs to be addressed first?

Auditor Compliance – making sure we have policy behind the practice

Jim will notify the group of the next meeting time and location.