

Annual Report 2016-2017
Senate Advisory Committee on Information Technology
University of Utah

1. Background

In 2016, the Academic Senate in cooperation with the CIO (Steve Hess) approved *The Senate Advisory Committee on Information Technology (SACIT)*. The committee is charged to: “...ensure ongoing robust communication among representatives of the University’s academic users of information technology (especially faculty and students), and administrators responsible for planning for, acquiring and deploying information technology resources. ... Proposals for University Regulations significantly affecting academic uses of information technology should be developed within or otherwise considered by the Committee prior to being presented to the Senate.” (PPM 6-002).

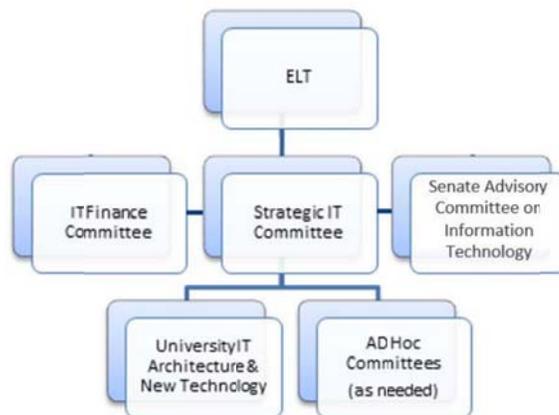


Figure 1: IT Governance Model at the U.

SACIT regularly engages with the Strategic IT Committee (SITC) to determine if any requests or actions proposed to SITC have an impact on the academic mission of the University. SACIT also represents the University community as major IT changes are introduced; SACIT engages other working groups to inform and review IT infrastructure and applications proposals. SACIT also works with PPM policy owners in the development or revision of University IT policy. Finally, the committee represents the Academic Senate in matters of IT. When appropriate, SACIT relays IT information back to the Senate and communicates the Senate’s IT policy interests to others.

2. Membership 2016-2017

For this first year of the committee, twelve committee members were selected to represent a wide variety of faculty interests. The duration of committee appointments has been staggered to ensure continuity of committee experience.

Name	College / Unit	Term length	Final Year
Peter Jensen, Chair	Engineering	3 years	2018-2019
Rohit Aggarwal	David Eccles School of Business	2 years	2017-2018
Thomas Cheatham	Pharmacy	3 years	2018-2019
Randy Dryer	Law	2 years	2017-2018
Julio Facelli	School of Medicine	3 years	2018-2019
Michael Gardner	Education	1 year	2016-2017
Patricia Hanna	Humanities	1 year	2016-2017
Kim Martinez	Fine Arts	2 years	2017-2018
Ross Walker	Engineering	2 years	2017-2018
Jeffrey Walling	Engineering	1 year	2016-2017
Joanne Yaffe	Social Work	1 year	2016-2017
Jeremy Myntti	J. Willard Marriott Library	3 years	2018-2019

Figure 2: SACIT Membership.

SACIT had two ex-officio members in 2016-2017: Xan Johnson (Academic Senate President) and Margaret Clayton (Academic Senate President-Elect). The committee should also have two students, but none were selected this year.

3. 2016-2017 Committee Activity

Several of the committee members routinely attended the SITC and ANTC meetings. Several items came through UIT and SITC for the committee to review including a network connection agreement, A/V learning space architecture changes, email security policy, notification of upcoming policy changes for a unified web presence, and two-factor authentication (2FA). The committee requested that the network connection agreement specifically state that it was governed by University policy. The committee provided significant oversight on the rollout of 2FA, as it impacted many users. We provided 2FA recommendations (many of which were adopted), we notified the senate, and we followed up to verify minimal negative impact to users. Many other issues that came through SITC and ANTC did not have relevance for this committee.

4. Observations and Future Work

This year, SACIT suffered from a lack of work. Outside of 2FA, no major IT issues came through SITC or ANTC in a manner that allowed us to substantively engage in the process. There are additional opportunities for IT engagement, but these are usually individual opportunities found at a governance level well below SITC

SACIT also suffered from a lack of information. Currently, SACIT engages UIT and the SITC and ANTC committees. UIT's role is limited; UIT services IT infrastructure and applications groups. It is various applications groups, HR, finance, (IST (Integrated Student Team) that decide upon courses of action related to IT. Once these groups decide upon a course of action they request IT support from UIT. SACIT currently has no direct link with these applications groups, yet this is where many IT decisions affecting the U community are made.

The learning spaces AV standards exemplified this. Many decisions surrounding this action were resolved by IST, and only the infrastructure changes were forwarded to SACIT. The committee's opinion was that the infrastructure was irrelevant, but that the impacts to users (faculty, staff, etc.) were important (although these had been covered by IST.) IT is generally regarded as infrastructure. The mission of our committee has been focused on IT. This committee should be more involved in the processes that influence IT choices.

As chair, I (Peter Jensen) recommend that the function of the committee be adapted to leverage the interests of individual committee members. There are enough existing meetings, working groups, and IT projects to engage every committee member. I recommend that in the first meeting in 2017-2018, interested individual committee members should volunteer, identify and champion a specific IT cause, and represent the committee by engaging other units at the U. The group meetings of the SACIT committee should be to exchange information, gather consensus, and promulgate recommendations.

For next year, I recommend that (at a minimum) the following tasks should be addressed by committee members : Attend SITC and ANTC committee meetings, work with applications groups in IST, finance, and HR, participate in the upcoming CIS redesign, and interface with the policy owner of PPM 4-300 to facilitate a unified web presence.

Finally, the committee membership needs to be updated. Four faculty terms have expired. New committee members should be selected based on their specific interest in working on IT issues. Committee members should not be selected to just attend SACIT meetings, they should be selected because they have a specific interest in actively working to govern through engagement. Additionally, SACIT should contact ASUU to find two student representatives, as required in PPM.