Computing Advisory Committee Meeting 07/26/2011

Attending: Dan Stover (Chair), Patty Cosgrove, Tom Harbert, Jessica Mann from University Web Services, Jason Phillips, Cassie Wagner from Library Affairs.

Absent: David Carlson, Garth Crosby, Janet Douglas, Tonny Oyana.

Meeting started at 3:00 PM.

Jessica Mann was introduced. She discussed the upcoming web standards and the Cascade Content Management System (CMS) that will be implemented soon. Jessica's department is just now developing SIU and Admissions web sites. First week of August will be the launch of the new logo and direction. Logo and lettermark are different.

All who use the CMS will automatically conform to new standards. There are not templates yet. Dreamweaver, Wordpress and Joomla sites will have templates provided. CMS will publish to your own server. Everyone can keep their own content but will need to use CMS if possible. You can use your own code but you might need to clean it up.

Not sure if all sites will need to be rewritten. Internal pages are a lesser priority than external ones. Top 50 web sites will be first to be updated to the CMS. Library Affairs is a very specialized site and will be a problem to convert. Cassie from Library Affairs indicated that this would probably be an issue. Jessica said that maybe they will not be compelled to convert.

Financial Aid was identified as one that will take a long time to process, considering it has a backend that is somewhat complex. Top sites will be posted on the Interactive web site.

CMS is similar to templates with Wordpress and Joomla. You can see your sites, your folder structure, and you will see your web sites. You can then use "Edit" and you can put your code in the body of the CMS for dynamic content.

IT Team runs the servers in virtual mode. A question was asked about security. Jessica said that they are really concerned about security and have it pretty locked down.

Janet Douglas is the project manager of this project so she can be contacted if you have issues.

Dan indicated that he would be interested in being a beta tester. Jessica indicated that they are interested in beta testers and would let us know when this is needed.

The standard format will have header navigation with standardized tabs and drop down menus at the top, with your navigation on the side. You can look at Lipman-Hearns website for examples.

SIU, SIUC, and Admissions web sites are included in launch.

The plan is for a 12 month turnaround for converting the top 50 sites. Dan asked if this was a suggestion or a mandate. Jessica indicated that this is not a suggestion.

We discussed issues relating to people developing web sites and then leaving. Hopefully the CMS will make things easier to update.

Dan said that he thought this was a good thing, indicating that there are many web sites that have needs for regular updates and for standardization.

You will have to copy and paste code into the CMS. You will not be able to point the body of CMS to a web page.

System does check links and makes sure that accessibility issues are correct.

Dan summarized by saying that this is basically a framework that has the look and feel that the consultants have provided to us. Jessica is not sure when the standard templates will become available.

Dan stated that the easier you make it, the better it will be accepted.

"Bacon strip" was talked about, which was a somewhat dated way of setting up a set of navigation links.

Does it work with all browsers? Jessica indicated that she did have to fix it for all browsers.

The CMS does not currently display very well with mobile devices such as smartphones. The display is similar to any other web program but is not optimized for smartphones.

The SIU mobile app (map app) now is unfunded. The app (which some commented was pretty cool) was outsourced through Blackboard and now is unfunded since Blackboard is now being phased out. This was a yearly subscription and is not funded currently.

New Desire2 Learn Learning Management System does have a mobile app but it will be a while before this will be in place (if ever).

Jessica will send out an email (since distributed) of all information and links associated with this project.

Dan and Cassie from Library Affairs have indicated they would be willing to beta test.

In regard to the web site capability that is provided by the University though University Web Services, Dan indicated that he had tried both external and internal web sites and found the internal ones comparable to the external web hosts.

Jessica left.

The inclusion of Information Systems and Applied Technologies (ISAT) into the CAC was discussed. Patty said that she and Randy Greer met with ISAT chair Steven Shih a long time ago and said that ISAT should be included. Provost Rice said no. Dan asked if we had to ask somebody. At the moment, it appeared that no one needed to be consulted (since then it was determined that the CAC Constitution indicates that several high-level administrators would need to be consulted for a change to the Constitution). Tom wondered if ISAT was covered under another constituency. Dan said that he felt that they should be considered because of their technical bent and potential for ideas.

Patty suggested that we look at the makeup of the CAC Constitution. This will possibly be taken up at another meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.