

Administrative/Professional Staff Council
Computing Advisory Committee
April 21, 2010
Don Laur & Patty Cosgrove

Three Computing Advisory Committee meetings have been held in the Library Administrative conference room since our last report. In the first meeting, Donnie Laur announced that he is forming a Campus Social Media Working Group and led a discussion about Social Media Networking that included Facebook, etc. For the second meeting Tamarah Cook from University Communications came to lead a discussion regarding Social Media Networking at SIUC.

The third meeting was held on March 19, 2010. Frank Scobby updated the committee on recent events such as the incident where the PC was hacked into in the Math Dept. As required by law, the University moved to notify the individuals impacted (there were approximately 900). It is hopeful that the media coverage on this event will heighten the sensitivity to computing security on campus.

-- Frank noted that the mainframe has been decommissioned.

-- Frank announced the Wham's Virtualization Data Center in IT. IT is hosting servers with its emergency generator, greater physical security and environmental protection (cooling, electrical etc.) 24/7. The College of Engineering (160 servers) is taking advantage of that service in a big way as is University Web Services (4 servers). Frank asked us to pass the word that when servers need to be updated, that IT should be contacted for partnership opportunities.

Dan Stover asked about the status of the Undergraduate Tuition Surcharge for Technology awards. Frank reported that the funds were distributed. Frank agreed to send a report to the CAC members.

Curt Wilson, IT Security Officer made a security presentation to the CAC committee similar to the one that was recently shared with the LAN Administrators on campus. Curt defined Malware and Crimeware, Spear Fishing and Drive By infections. He discussed Computer and Data Protection and talked about products available that individuals can use to keep their computers up to date, secure sensitive information (SSN#s & credit card #s) and keep them virus free: Secunia, Datafind, and McAfee Viruscan were products discussed. He also talked about locking down computers and dedicating computers in offices just to work. This would especially apply to those computers used for financial data. Those would need strict isolation, no web surfing and no e-mail. Dan Stover asked about a computing audit and there was some discussion regarding datafind tools and encrypted information on office computers. There was some discussion about centralized patch management and defense in depth such as the product "True Crypt".

Curt and Michael Shelton asked the members of the CAC to help them get the word out about the vital need for computing security measures on campus. They are willing to present to any groups on campus including constituency groups.

For more detailed IT computing security information regarding the presentation as well as best practices, go to: <http://infotech.siuc.edu/securityeducation/>

There was some discussion among the committee members regarding the importance of computing security at SIUC and that CAC members would like to support this initiative.

The bandwidth at SIUC issue was discussed along with the need for millions of dollars to upgrade the campus. There are companies wanting to sell outsourced services to SIUC. Frank Scobby mentioned that faculty members and researchers should be knocking down IT's doors communicating their bandwidth and infrastructure needs.