



Information Services Governance Committee

Wednesday 14th November 2018

MINUTES

Present:

Professor Michael Arthur (Provost and Chair)
Ms. Wendy Appleby
Professor Stella Bruzzi
Dr Celia Caulcott
Professor Piet Eeckhout
Professor Mark Emberton
Professor Graham Hart
Professor Becky Francis
Ms Francesca Fryer (partial)
Mr Rex Knight
Ms Collette Lux
Professor Ivan Parkin
Professor Alan Penn
Professor David Price
Professor Geraint Rees
Professor Sasha Roseneil
Mr. Tom Rowson
Professor Anthony Smith
Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker
Dr Michael Cope
Dr. Clare Gryce (partial)
Mr Alan Harper (partial)
Mr Robert Maughan (partial)
Dr James McCafferty
Dr Fiona Strawbridge (partial)

Apologies:

Dr Paul Ayris
Dame Nicola Brewer
Mr Simon Cane
Mr Philip Harding
Mrs Lori Houlihan
Professor David Lomas
Ms Fiona Ryland
Professor Alan Thompson

The Provost opened the meeting.

1 18/11/01 Minutes of the previous meeting

Approved:

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2018 (paper 18/06) were approved.

2 18/11/02 Update on Digital Masterplan progress

Discussion:

2.1 Dr Cope summarised the FY1819 current funding allocations given the use of RCIF and TCIF funding. Pending the new implementation of the new financial strategy, additional funding will be made available for IT investment in subsequent years, better matching an organisation of UCL's size. The current overall status includes a likely overspend on MyHR, but it is expected to absorb across the portfolio during the year, and therefore is expecting to come in on target.

Overall, Dr Cope summarised the current position as being circa 8 months on average behind the DM plan from 2016 (this is 2 years into the 5 year Digital Masterplan), largely due to issues securing sufficient funding. Each domain lead then gave an update on the current progress against plan.

2.2 **Digital Education:** Dr Strawbridge summarised the Digital Education plans: investing in teaching and learning spaces; extending student support; and improving e-learning facilities. In discussing Lecturecast, Dr Strawbridge agreed to investigate how 'last minute' requests could be better supported.

Action: Investigate support for last minute Lecturecast requests: FS

2.3 **Research IT:** Ms Gryce described the Thomas (2017) and Faraday (2018) investments as giving UCL a clear competitive edge in HPC-dependent research awards. Progress in research data (eg data backups, self-administered accounts and the new data repository) continues. A re-design of the current research support apps (eg RPS, IRIS etc) is underway, though no changes are planned before REF. Research Software Engineering continues to develop, with increase data science support and the new 'AI studio'. Professor Parkin commented very positively on UCL's HPC support for MAPS. Other issues raised included: federated access with other institutions; approaches to funding long-term data storage; and loss of key staff to other institutions.

2.4 **Digital Transformation:** Dr Cope outlined recent progress in this space: Drupal (web content management) roll-out proceeding at pace and due to complete this financial year; self-service business case agreed (TOPS funded); UCL Go mobile app strategy being developed. Items raised included the need to improve IRIS (staff research profiles) presented externally.

2.5 **Administrative IT:** Mr Harper summarised progress in the various projects in this domain, including: MyHR; integrated Data-Warehouse (IDW); and the new Library Management System. Key topics included delays on MyHR, and the impact this will have on other initiatives that are dependent in the new MyHR system. Dr Caulcott highlighted the need for funding to support Innovation and Enterprise, and KEF, activities – eg the Innovation Ledger, and Declaration of Interests. The need for a single governance arrangement for further Worktribe exploitation was also noted.

2.6 **IT Infrastructure:** Dr McCafferty updated the SMT on: funding for information security; rollout of Windows 10; print@UCL ITT; Unified Comms and Collaboration pilot and then roll-out; data centres (with the current issues of water ingress and power provisioning); and data networks, given the aging network switch estate.

3 18/11/03 Information Security Update

Noted:

3.1 Restricted

4. 18/11/04 Update on IT Operational Performance

Noted:

4.1 Dr McCafferty presented on recent IT operational performance (paper 18/11/04). Key points included: recent critical incidents (especially the prolonged power-outage in the Tottenham Court Road area); service desk performance with robust performance through October; Windows 10 roll-out challenges; and overall service availability.

5. 18/11/05 Update on key initiatives

Noted:

5.1 Dr Cope summarised the update on key initiatives (paper 18/11/05).

5.2 The MyHR Project has challenging timescales, especially for parallel payroll runs, where data issues on the existing system are hampering progress, jeopardising the February go-live.

5.3 The Academic Model Project – the issues here also centre around data quality and updating data structures.

Discussion:

5.4 The ISGC discussed data issues generally: the need for improved data quality for management purposes and submission to regulators; the need for strong and systematic processes for accurate data entry and validation; as well as getting the culture right (data is important).

6. AOB

There were no AOB items

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