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**Council of Principal Investigators (CPI)**

**Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 21, 2022, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Microsoft Teams

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| Members in attendance: | Gregory Collins, Lynette Daws, Katherine Dondanville, Charles France, Bess Frost, Asma Khan, David Libich, Mark Shapiro, Susan Weintraub |
| Members Absent: | Armen Akopian, Daniel Lodge, Susannah Nicholson, Darpan Patel, Adam Salmon |
| Guests: | Yemen Collier, VP & Chief Information Officer<br>John Garcia, Director, IT Service Management<br>Chuntida Harinnitisuk, Director, Enterprise Systems & Operations<br>Kevin Howell, Senior Director, Web & Digital Strategy<br>Eric Rodriguez, Manager, Web Initiatives<br>Michael Schnabel, Asst. VP, Information Security & Operations |

The focus of this meeting was for CPI members to become informed about new IT initiatives at UT Health San Antonio.  The meeting was opened by Dr. Libich who then introduced Yemen Collier.

1. **Yemen Collier**
- Mr. Collier gave a brief overview of IT at the HSC and showed a slide with the IMS organizational chart.  Next, Mr. Collier turned the discussion over to Chuntida Harinnitisuk.

2. **Chuntida Harinnitisuk**
- Many investigators do not know about the IMS-related services that are available to support research.  Based on survey responses at a recent Town Hall meeting, technologies needed to facilitate research include data storage, software and collaboration tools.
- Among new services offered by IMS is GENIE HPC (high-performance computing), with more than 100 applications installed that can be used at a low cpu cost/hour; basic HPC training can be arranged.  Also available are the Azure archive cloud storage system and the Globus data transfer and sharing service.  Challenges that were mentioned include:  inability of investigators to use grant funds to pay for IMS chargeback fees; difficulties in recruiting and retaining IT staff to support research computing and data management; the limited number of topics covered by HPC training; lack of guidance available for data management; no formal institutional support for IMS services, with the need to depend on chargebacks to maintain many operations.  Dr. Libich emphasized the need for on campus access to HPC that is well supported, well maintained and is accessible for non-expert users.
- A configuration that is proposed to improve effectiveness is for IMS to serve as a central hub/resource that provides expertise, support and new development and has the capacity for growth.  Partnering with other groups such as the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) would be needed.  This model would also require departments to hire some IT-related staff.  CPI members pointed out numerous problems with the need to depend on departmental personnel for some of the functions and explained that students and post-doctoral fellows cannot be used in a support capacity.  There are plans for a working group to be assembled to assess current capabilities and needs, and to develop strategies for future research computing and data management.  Mr. Collier noted that IMS has connected with experts at UT System and

TACC, but it would be best to work with people at this institution who better understand local needs.
- Dr. Frost described difficulties encountered in finding IMS services using the search functions of the HSC website. Ms. Harinnitisuk explained how to find the service list and added that they are working on making navigation easier.

3. **Michael Schnabel**
- *Security.* Mr. Schnabel is the Chief Information Security Officer; his team is responsible for all of the behind-the-scenes technologies, including network, security and data centers. He provided details about the constant threat of highly-diverse cyber-attacks to healthcare facilities and academic institutions. He explained that security-related exceptions can be made for individual researchers/labs to accommodate specific needs as long as overall security is maintained. He presented slides with information about strategic priorities, alignment to key threats and ongoing risk mitigation projects. Mr. Schnabel said that he is happy to give a presentation about these topics at department meetings.
- *e-mail.* There was discussion about institutional e-mail services and prior issues that resulted in numerous important messages being sent to junk folders or filtered out entirely. Mr. Schnabel described the process that had been involved with moving the e-mail system from on premise to the cloud. Filters have been loosened to resolve the previous problems. While this resulted in more unwanted mail being delivered to HSC recipients, the system provides the ability to easily set up rules to deal with the spam messages according to individual preferences and minimizes the chances of critical messages being lost.

4. **Eric Rodriguez**
- Mr. Rodriguez gave a presentation with an overview of the web-based faculty profiles. He explained that the profiles have recently been consolidated onto one main platform that feeds all of the institutional sites. The new profile system is directly editable by faculty or by a delegate of their choice. Edits can also be made by the digital/web services team after a service request ticket has been submitted.
- Dr. Frost asked if some sections of the faculty profiles could be updated automatically (such as grant funding). Mr. Rodriguez replied that while it's feasible to integrate the profiles with central data sources, inconsistencies in content have prevented implementation. It was also noted that individual researchers might prefer to have control over which grants are made public. Control would be lost with auto-updates. Dr. Libich added that he feels that the arrangements for faculty profiles are headed in the right direction but agrees that many of the fields should be updated automatically.
- There was general discussion about website organization and the need to make it easier to find information on the HSC websites since the in-house search functions frequently do not return useful responses. Mr. Rodriguez indicated that there are ways to improve searches on a case-by-case basis and suggested submitting a service request ticket for specific search issues

5. **CPI Business**
- Not enough members were in attendance to approve the June 2022 minutes.
- No updates were given by the Communications Officer, Dr. Frost.
- Andrea Marks will be the guest at the August 18, 2022 meeting.
- No additional new business was introduced, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.