In Attendance: William Powers, Brad Englert, Charles Roeckle, Greg Fenves, Jay Boisseau, Kevin Hegarty, Lynn Crison, Pat Clubb, Randy Diehl, Tom Gilligan, Esther Raizen

Absent: Chang Liu

I. IT Strategic Priorities and ITS Capital Expenditures FY 2012-2013 – Accountability Update (Brad Englert)

Brad Englert provided an accountability update on FY 2012-2013 IT Strategic Priorities and IT Capital Expenditures. He provided an overview of last year’s 12 priorities and noted the status of each project. Eight of the twelve have been completed, and the remaining four are in progress. Additionally, he presented total expenditures for FY 2012-2013.

Brad Englert observed that SITAB directed Information Technology Services (ITS) to stay within existing funding levels in 2010, and this goal has been met. The $500 per FTE annual assessment to fund common good IT needs will not increase for the fifth year in a row.

II. IT Strategic Priorities and ITS Capital Budget FY 2013-2014 – Endorse (Brad Englert)

Brad Englert sought endorsement for FY 2013-2014 IT Strategic Priorities and ITS Capital Budget. One of the top priorities for the year is the move to Shared Services, in particular the move to IT Shared Services (ITSS). Once the design stage is complete, he will return to SITAB with recommendations for the ITSS model.

The committee unanimously endorsed the FY 2013-2014 IT Strategic Priorities and ITS Capital Budget. The endorsement provides for flexibility in budget as budget adjustments may be made dependent on changes in the implementation of priorities.

III. High Speed Connectivity Roadmap – Endorse (William Green)

William Green sought the committee’s endorsement for the High Speed Connectivity Roadmap. The long-term goal is to increase the entire university’s connectivity from 10GB to 100GB. He recommended that only TACC move to high speed now since it is the only entire organization that often requires a 100GB connection to support research activities. A limited number of professors that have projects that require the 100GB connect will work through TACC to achieve the connectivity speed they require. The speed increase for the entire the university to 100GB is expected to be achieved by FY 2015-2016.
The committee inquired about the price of moving the whole university now. The cost of moving the University now is high and the need to high connection speed is still relatively low. Thus, it was deemed prudent to wait until equipment costs came down and need increased. It was clarified that the committee is not endorsing the funding structure, specifically, but rather the phased roadmap. There was further discussion regarding online education and bandwidth needs. These needs will be understood as more online courses are developed.

The committee unanimously endorsed the High Speed Connectivity Roadmap.

IV. Addressing IT Risks – Discussion (Cam Beasley)

Cam Beasley presented a policy approved by the Executive Compliance Committee to address the current risks associated with decentralized servers. The current risks include: unmanaged and insecure devices, poor management, and poor systems monitoring. The goal of the policy is to promote adoption of central backup, co-location, and virtualization services. The specific machine goal is for 1,000 new physical or virtual systems to be migrated to central services by September 2014. Only 40% of the migration goal has been met. Causes cited for low adoption include concern that current offerings for co-location and virtualization do not meet the necessary technical capacities the users currently experience and that migration could affect productivity. Cam sought the committee’s suggestions for how to address these concerns and move forward with the Executive Compliance Committee mandate to use centralized virtual and co-location services.

The committee recommended adding a delay exemption to the mandate. Those users currently operating localized virtualization services and in need of specific technical capacities that cannot currently be met by the central virtualization service will be exempt from the mandate until the technical capacities can be met. Owners of these services will complete a security exception request form with the Information Security Office. Once the technical capacities exist, the exempted servers will move under the purview of the mandate. It is expected that the vast majority of the technical capacity issues will be solved within six months.

The next steps to achieve the policy goal are to create a list of servers planned for migration and those servers that are to be exempted. Additionally, the CISO and CIO will present the policy to the Dean’s Council.