IT Governance Committee
Meeting Minutes
5.19.14

Members in Attendance:
John Charles, Vice President for IS&T
Professor Denny Freeman, Dean for Undergraduate Education
Michael Howard, Vice President for Finance
Professor Frans Kaashoek, EECS
Anthony P. Sharon, Deputy Executive Vice President (Chair)

Members Absent:
Professor Karen Gleason, Associate Provost (Co-Chair)
Professor Maria Zuber, Vice President for Research

Guests: Justin Anderson (IS&T), Steve Buckley (IS&T), Thomas Hardjono (IS&T)

Discussion Topics and Decisions

I. 3.10.14 Meeting Minutes approved.

II. “An Approach to a Common Interface to Data at MIT” – Steve Buckley, Justin Anderson, Tom Hardjono presented.
   • Presenting a use case for moving forward with architecture. Big Data is a good example of getting access to data in a controlled manner. IS&T has been working with CSAIL on Big Data for the last six to nine months and on Israel’s projects (mobile maps). Both have shown issues relating to data access.
   • The goals of the approach are to provide a defined process for exposing data so that anyone can use it in a controlled and accepted way; make it as standard as possible; make it open source so it’s not tied into a roadmap of any one vendor; empower MIT developers; and support teaching, research, and the Big Data initiative at MIT.
   • Evaluating OpenID Connect for delegated authentication and authorization. OpenID Connect allows delegated authentication and is geared towards sites we can trust with data. It allows federated identity.
   • Evaluating WSO2 as an API Manager.
   • Next steps include completing evaluations and selecting cloud middleware products that are best suited for our environment, cataloging public and private data sources, working with governance committees to develop appropriate policies, developing MIT Mobile for iPad, and holding a “Hackathon”.
   • More information is needed related to data quality. One way to improve data quality is to have more people looking at it. Need to build in quality control processes.
III. Approval of Guiding Principles for IT @ MIT – John Charles presented.
   • John Charles completed the listening tour and check-ins with stakeholders and the feedback was very positive. IS&T has not received any pushback on the proposed approach.
   • Moved to getting broader feedback from the community through the release of the IT @ MIT site. The site has received over 1,000 hits and 600 unique visitors. It included a survey to revalidate the goals and priorities. Each one was validated as important, very important, or extremely important.
   • IS&T is ready to move to the next step and is asking for approval from ITGC to proceed and develop plans over the summer.

   There was consensus agreement that the Council was ready to approve. Given that some Council members were absent it was agreed that Tony Sharon would seek Council member approval through email. Professors Gleason and Zuber approved through email.

IV. Review of Faculty IT Policy Group Charter – Tony Sharon presented.
   • Provost Marty Schmidt talked to Professor Bob Redwine to see if he would accept the chair. Professor Redwine is going to send the Provost an email regarding possible representatives from other schools. [Subsequent to this meeting Prof. Redwine agreed to chair the committee]
   • Plans include formulation phase this summer and kick off in the fall.

   There was consensus agreement that thought should be given to student representation on this policy group and that the group.

V. Bitcoin – Professor Denny Freeman presented.
   • Two students proposed a $100 giveaway for Bitcoin. Students are very enthusiastic about this and we should be supportive. It could be set up as a club. It may be a good idea to have a faculty advisor.
   • Concerns were raised on a number of process-related issues including – Where are the Bitcoins going to be stored? Could any students wind up with a financial loss related to this, or VPF? Should OGC write up a disclaimer? Is this gifting? Does it count against financial aid?
   • There are deeper policy implications, which is why it’s being brought forward to ITGC. This demonstrates the need for a policy committee.
   • The Bitcoin expo was sponsored by alumni and well run. They are willing to make a donation to the Bitcoin club. It’s good that they reached out to MIT and we should be supportive. They want to donate this fall.

   Professor Freeman will meet with the students again and ask them to write a more detailed deployment plan. Professor Freeman will also connect with OGC. The plan should be cycled back through IS&T.
VI. IS&T Year in Review: Accomplishments and Challenges presented by John Charles.

- IS&T accomplishments are mapped against the EVPT Themes and IS&T Strategic Priorities. Going forward IS&T will map against the vision and track to the associated milestones.
- IS&T roadmaps are due to be updated and will include the new lens of APIs.
- The roadmaps will tie back to the $30m non-recurring funding. Each roadmap will include:
  1. Technology plan
  2. Financial plan
  3. Governance and Advisory Structure plan
  4. Communications plan
- Current state of administrative systems:
  - Two big efforts are Faculty Effort Reporting and Atlas.
  - Administrative systems could be broken into two categories – central and DLCs. Tony Sharon plans to look at this over the summer.
  - Concern was raised about spending money on faculty reporting and RAFT, only to realize a few years out that we can’t do everything we want in SAP and will need another solution.
  - With SAP we know we are dealing with vintage technology. SAP is saying they are only supporting the current environment through 2020. By 2016 we need to have learned enough about what staying with SAP will look like and either migrate to the new SAP platform or transition to Workday/Oracle.
  - We need to take incremental steps; Education Systems does this well. And we need to leverage APIs where possible.