Information & Technology Governance Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2024

Location: Law 115; Online, via Zoom

In attendance

	In-person	Remote	
Chairs	x		Andreas Bohman
	x		Sarah Norris Hall
Members		x	Lou Cariello
			Charles Costarella
			Anind Dey
		x	Sheila Edwards Lange
			Kristin Esterberg
		x	Mary Gresch
	x		Mindy Kornberg
			Fredrick Nafukho
		x	Simon Neame
		x	Eric Neil
		x	Mari Ostendorf
	x		Phil Reid
		x	Jacqueline Cabe
	x		Denzil Suite
		x	Joy Williamson-Lott
Guests		x	Richard Cardoza
	x		Magda Balazinska
Governance Operations Team	x		Piet Niederhausen
	x		Rupert Berk
	x		Siva Nageshwaran
		x	Christine Dean
		x	Adriana Matesky
	x		Taifa Harris

Link to meeting materials: 2024-07-31 I&T Gov ExCo Materials.pdf

Minutes

Introduction and Agenda Overview

The meeting began with greetings and an overview of the agenda, including updates and a significant report on the AI task force.

- **Academic Services Straw Model**

Adriana Matesky presented the academic services straw model, discussing its scope, goals, and the governance domain.

- **AI Task Force Report**

Andreas, Taifa, and Magda provided an update on the AI task force, highlighting key developments and future plans.

- **Technology at Scale**

Discussion on how to work together to bring software and other packages at an enterprise level to avoid duplication and support efficiency.

Academic Services Straw Model

Adriana Matesky presented the academic services straw model, discussing its scope, goals, and the governance domain. The discussion included stakeholder feedback and potential challenges.

- **Stakeholder Feedback**

Feedback from various stakeholders was discussed, including the need for broader representation and the importance of including student affairs leadership.

- **Governance Model Assumptions**

Review of the assumptions underlying the governance model, with discussions on decision-making authority and the need for thorough vetting of decisions.

- **Membership and Representation**

Discussion on the types of roles that should be represented on the governance board, with suggestions for broader representation across campus.

- **Vote on Moving Forward**

A vote was held to proceed with developing the charter for the academic services domain, incorporating feedback on membership and scope.

The vote passed with unanimous support.

AI Initiative and Strategic Planning

- **AI Task Force Update**

Anind, the co-chair of the AI task force, was absent, so the speaker provided an update on the

task force's progress, including the impressive work done by the work groups and the executive committee.

- **Proposals and Funding**

The task force came up with about 50 proposals ranging from infrastructure to teaching, learning, and student engagement. The total estimated cost for these proposals is 930 million over 10 years, rounded up to1 billion.

- **AI Governance**

AI governance will fall under I&T governance, and two faculty members will be added to the I&T governance board to ensure appropriate representation at the executive committee.

- **Center of Gravity for AI Initiative**

The initiative will have a center of gravity, potentially an AI leader, and more information will be provided as the plan develops.

- **Engagement with Campus**

The task force will engage with the campus on the AI plan starting this summer, with web presences and town halls planned for the fall.

- **Vendor Partnerships**

The task force is looking to partner with key vendors like Microsoft, T-Mobile, AWS, and OpenAI to support the AI initiative.

- **Learning from Other Universities**

The task force is learning from other universities like the University of Michigan, which has been a leader in AI implementation.

- **Waystar Framework**

The Waystar framework (Washington AI Initiative for Society, Teaching, and Research) was introduced to coordinate the university-wide strategic plan for AI.

- **Faculty Hiring**

The plan includes hiring new faculty with AI expertise and encouraging existing faculty to adopt AI in their research.

- **Student Experience**

The initiative aims to enhance the student experience by leveraging AI for enrollment, answering questions, and other operational tasks.

- **Training and Upskilling**

The initiative will focus on training and upskilling the university community, leveraging the eScience Institute's expertise.

- **Computational Infrastructure**

The initiative will continue to grow the university's AI infrastructure, including the higher cluster

and data storage solutions.

- **Ethical and Responsible AI**

  The initiative will ensure that responsible and ethical AI practices are integrated into all courses and research activities.

- **Collaborations**

  The initiative will seek collaborations with local tech companies, non-profits, and government entities to enhance AI research and application.

- **Staff Involvement**

  The initiative will ensure that staff are included in the AI transformation process, focusing on upskilling and enhancing their roles.

- **AI Minor and Micro-Credentials**

  The initiative plans to introduce an AI minor, AI certificates, and micro-credentials to enhance AI education for students.

- **Funding and Donor Interest**

  The task force is considering various funding sources and donor interests to support the AI initiative.

  - **Historical Contributions of University of Washington in AI**

    Discussion on the historical contributions of University of Washington faculty members in the field of AI, including the first AI conference and the founding of the Allen Institute for AI.

  - **AI Oversight and Advisory Committees**

    Explanation of the roles of the AI Oversight Committee and the AI Advisory Committee, including their composition and responsibilities.

  - **State Funding for AI**

    Discussion on the submission of a funding package to the state for AI-related enrollments and other disciplines.

  - **AI Oversight Committee Composition**

    Advocacy for including members with vested interests in AI compliance, risk, and ethics in the AI Oversight Committee.

  - **Strategic Gaps in AI Oversight**

    Concerns raised about the lack of strategic implementation in research, education, and student services within the AI oversight structure.

Technologies at Scale

Discussion on standardizing enterprise platforms while maintaining discipline- specific tools and capabilities, and the need for a slate strategy.

- **Lifecycle of Technology Services**

  Explanation of the lifecycle of technology services from unit-specific needs to enterprise service offerings, including examples like Salesforce and Jira.

- **Distributed vs. Central Services**

  Discussion on the benefits and challenges of distributed and central services, including cost savings, risk reduction, and equity of access.

- **Collaboration with UW Medicine**

  Highlighting the collaboration between UW IT and UW Medicine ITS for technology services.

- **Governance in IT Investments**

  Discussion on governance's role in setting a strategy for information and technology investments at the University of Washington.

Follow up items

[] Adriana will connect with Simon to ensure library representation.

[] The governance board will include broader representation, including student affairs leadership.

[] Engage with the campus on the AI plan starting this summer.

[] Plan web presences and town halls for the fall.

[] Add two faculty members to the INT governance board.

[] Develop a center of gravity for the AI initiative.

[] Partner with key vendors like Microsoft, T-Mobile, AWS, and OpenAI.

[] AI Oversight Committee will slide into the Information and Technology Executive Committee.

[] Addition of two faculty members to the AI Oversight Committee.

[] Submission of a funding package to the state for AI-related enrollments.

[] Rollout of new initiatives in the summer leading up to the next academic year.