IFAS Infrastructure and Resource Committee
Meeting Minutes for 3 January 2017
McCarty Hall A 2175
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

1. Call to order and welcome, 11:07 am
   Present: Andy Ogram, Erica Goss, Saundra TenBroek, Dorota Haman, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Gregg Nuessly (by Skype); Brenda Rogers (by Skype). Guest: Dan Cromer, Director of IFAS Office of Information Technology
2. Approval of 31 October 2016 minutes. Minutes were approved as written.
3. Dan Cromer discussed the organizational structure of OIT and the responsibilities of the different group leaders. Dan's summary of his presentation is attached to these minutes.
   <u>Significant points of discussion included:</u>
   - The need for support for Apple products such as iMacs. In 2005, UF indicated that only Microsoft products would be supported, and discouraged the use of non-Microsoft systems (http://imm.ifas.ufl.edu/6_150/6150-3.htm). Due to the expanded use of iMacs on campus, a task force was organized in November, 2016, for training and policy development regarding Macs. Regardless, Dan discourages the use of Macs for professional purposes. Macs are difficult to interface to network, needed for pushing fixes, security, etc.
   - System frequently experiences phishing scams and other viruses. Report to abuse@ufl.edu. Check for known problems at alerts.it.edu
   - A task force is working to evaluate systems for replacement of Polycom. Currently under consideration are Cisco Webex and Zoom. Skype for browsers will stay, but can be problematic with Macs.
   - OIT is having difficulty keeping up with the demand for app development. Need two additional FTEs devoted to app development. Current apps available at m.ifas.ufl.edu

4. General concern was expressed over the difficulty departments have in obtaining timely maintenance of UF owned buildings.
5. Jeanna reported on the process involved in listing buildings and maintenance for PECO funds. Safety issues take priority; renovation for ADA, roads and buildings are considered.
6. Ogram reported on meeting with Elaine Turner, Dean for Teaching. Opportunities for Minigrants will not be announced until budget decided. Small individual projects have been funded through Dean's office. COLT will be moved to renovated Building 162, available by Fall 2017.
7. Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Attachment:
Dan Cromer's summary of his presentation

Dan Cromer's Summary of Presentation to IRC (1.3.17)

- Review of UF/IFAS Office of Information Technology organization for continued IT support of IFAS.
  - Help Desk team, with Dan Christophy as supervisor of four others for local computer support to SVP, Deans, and other sections with no local computer support, and as backup for departments when their primary support person is unavailable.
  - Server Administration team, with Chris Leopold supervisor of four others for server management of Web and shared file storage systems, computer updates and patching from central system, and security support. This includes 72 remote servers at each Research Center and many county Extension offices. Chris is also supervisor of Dan Christophy and Help Desk.
  - Application Development team, with Dr. Jiannong Xin supervisor of team of four others. Major development and maintenance of Web and mobile applications including IFAS Directory, EDIS, DDIS, FAWN, GI-BMP, Pesticide Exam for FDACS. Mobile apps have index at http://m.ifas.ufl.edu. Three other positions were lost in 2008 due to budget cutbacks, and at least funding for two salaries as replacement strongly encouraged. Many application needs remain unmet.
  - Aline O'Donnell, as administrative support to me as Director, with department fiscal, HR, and grant support by Shared Services Center, which is co-located with us in new IFAS Admin Building 89.
  - Wei Cao as database administrator for IFAS databases, who coordinates with server and development teams. Rick Lusher, as program manager for the FAWN project.
- Review of pending projects
  - I am task force chair for review of Webinar videoconferencing systems as replacement for Adobe Connect. Two strongest contenders are Cisco Webex and Zoom. IFAS plans are to phase out legacy Polycom-type systems for computer-based software systems.
  - Wendy Williams, IT Director of CALS, is chair of a task force developing strategy for improved support of Apple computers in the UF enterprise environment. The need for improved Apple support is very much recognized and is being addressed.
- As central administrator of wide-area networking for RECs and CEOs, we continue to explore options for improved networking capability for all faculty.