Welcome, Agenda Review & Announcements:

Brad Barham welcomed everyone to the meeting. Alice Gustafson provided the group with brief project updates and facilitated short discussions as follows:

Enterprise IT Decision Making: Alice stated that following a previous presentation to this group, the final EITDM model was presented and supported by the Steering Committee. Next steps are to socialize the recommended model and begin planning implementation. John Krogman commented that he had also presented the plan to the DoIT management group that morning and that it had been well received. John also opened a short discussion regarding expectations and approaches for introducing a new chancellor to the plan.

Instructional Space: Alice reported that two of the sub-teams are wrapping up their data collection and both have reported-out to the Steering Committee. The teams will present a summary of their work to the Advisory Committee at the April meeting. Bill Elvey noted that the work of several groups, including these teams, the Educational Innovation advisory group and others, seems to be coalescing in a way that will help the University best plan for and use classroom, non-classroom and laboratory space.

Email & Calendaring: Alice presented an overview of the project activities, focusing specifically on the demand for ongoing communication of factual information as the project “becomes real” to more people across campus. She also clarified the decision process around identity and domain questions. As they are broader, infrastructure issues that the CIO is addressing, they affect the project. Bruce Maas agreed with Alice, adding that while the email & calendaring project prompted the broader questions, the decisions will affect many other technology areas “downstream.” He stated that the decision will include a continued focus on the AE goals of creating efficiencies in order to allocate more resources to teaching, but he will also be evaluating the most efficient route – one domain – for risk of faculty and others abandoning our campus system. Bruce also stated that the project’s executive sponsors had the information they needed and were close to making a decision. Several additional comments from the group centered on detailed migration questions and on a suggestion that AE be more forthcoming with project information.

Alice took this opportunity to introduce the new, AE Weekly Wrap-Up meetings to the group. As of March 8, 2013,
AE will host weekly open meetings to present updates and answer questions on AE projects. The Weekly Wrap-Ups are scheduled for each Friday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in Union South.

Brad Barham then opened a discussion regarding the future of the AE Advisory Committee, suggesting that it appears that the work of the group could be coming to an end. Brad suggested that the group might form three smaller committees, focused on technology issues, space utilization and resource allocation. Brad suggested that the new structure would still provide shared governance, but allow for greater ability to provide timely advice and take appropriate actions. The group agreed, and briefly discussed the potential impact of managing more groups, the need to keep directors involved and informed, and the potential for using existing campus groups for these advisory roles. There was also a short discussion of the general need for transparency and inclusivity in the decision-making process, as well as the need to communicate the decisions as they are made.

Data Center Aggregation Update

Steve Krogull, on behalf of the Data Center Aggregation (DCA) project leaders, presented an update on the progress and next steps of the sub-teams. Steve noted for the group that the project web site was launched on March 6, providing a public resource for ongoing information as the project moves towards implementation.

Questions from the Committee centered on hardware, the nature of the data and funding as considerations when determining if/who will be required to participate in the new service. Steve stated that the service is being designed to be an attractive option for near-term decisions, acknowledging that it will probably also include a plan for lifecycle adoption.

Bill Elvey commented that the DCA project appears to be giving appropriate thought to hardware and facilities decision-making processes, and noted for the group that many of the new data regulations mentioned will affect more than technology choices. Bruce Maas added that the DCA project is an example of preparing for better decision-making at numerous future points, and could establish the University as a national leader in this area.

Computers Bundles Update

Lori Voss presented the results of the Strategic Purchasing – Computer Bundles team. Over the last several months, this team identified, negotiated and launched to campus a set of Dell laptop and desktop computer bundles as UW Preferred Products at a great price. The bundle configurations and pricing will be evaluated and renegotiated as necessary every six months.

The Committee briefly discussed the possibility of negotiating similar deals with Apple; however the consensus was that given Apple’s business model, this is an unlikely scenario. Some concern was expressed by Committee members regarding mandates and compliance in purchasing the Dell bundles. Lori assured the group that at this time departments still have the options to purchase other configurations and/or brands, but that the expectation is for campus to give the preferred bundles first consideration, and that Dell negotiated in good faith that this will be the case.

Anne Mekschun noted that her department had just ordered several new computers and that thanks to the new bundles, the searching, configuring and purchasing that used to take several weeks, took just a day.

Next meeting: 10 am April 4, 2013  Room 260 Bascom