Information Technology Committee

Minutes for November 22, 2024

**Present:** Xiaohong Li, Jon Farmer, Mark Gibson, Gustavo Gonzalez, Terri Smith, Abbas Jarrahian, David Reynolds, Kyle Webster, and Rafael Andrade

**Absent:** Tiffany Rowden, Allisa Tweedy, John Dodson, Heather Cash, and Student Representative

**Guest:** None

**Approve the Minutes from September 20, 2024 – Action Item**Minutes were approved unanimously with no changes.

**TC (Taft College) Tech Strategic Plan**

A draft outline of the TC Tech Strategic Plan was presented during the meeting, and feedback from members is highly encouraged. The development of the plan is on track, and the final draft will be completed after the Educational Master Plan is finished after February.

**Recent OS upgrades and SOPHOS for Apple devices**

The ITS department has identified an issue that occurs after upgrading the OS to Sequoia. Following the upgrade, Office will no longer activate and won't allow activation using your TC account. The ITS technicians have found that removing end users’ Apple account from the system allows Office to activate without issues. However, if end users log in with their Apple account again, it will cause Office to break. Currently, the only workaround is to avoid using an Apple account. The ITS technicians will keep everyone updated once a permanent fix is available.

The ITS department is working on a project to remove SOPHOS from the Apple devices on campus. Following that, Defender will be deployed on those machines for antivirus protection. It's essential that SOPHOS is uninstalled before ITS begins the deployment. End users can either run the uninstaller themselves or bring their devices to the ITS office for assistance.

**Migration from Personal Apple Accounts to Managed TC Accounts**

The ITS (Information Technology Services) proposed a change for all District-owned Apple devices, requiring users to use their college IDs for Apple support. The implementation of this change planned to be in December or January.   
This change will:

1. Enhance Security: Managed Apple IDs come with built-in security features, such as two-factor authentication, to protect sensitive information.
2. Streamline Management to ensure compliance with Federal, State, and TC’s policies.
3. Provide employees and students with access to educational resources
4. Reduce potential issues when Apple or Windows releases updates.

The planned change will ensure that all Apple accounts are managed through Apple School Manager, using @taftcollege.edu email addresses.

The main challenge during this transition will be for Apple users who have been using their personal Apple ID for app purchases, such as apps for the Apple Watch. Since it’s possible to have separate Apple IDs for personal and school use, the ITS department will be offering support to those impacted.

**ITS and DE (Distance Education) Updates and Additional Agenda Items**

**ITS Updates:**

1. The Welding Network connection project has been completed. The welding shop’s network is now integrated into the College’s network, strengthening the College’s cybersecurity.
2. Planned to start College Network Resiliency Analysis
3. IT Staffing updates: New ITS technician and helpdesk technician positions have been filled. The offer for the new ITS director has been accepted, and anticipated starting on December 2, 2024

**DE Updates:**No updates

**Additional Agenda Items:**

1. Requiring Students Using their TC email for TC communication:

The committee has agreed that students should use their TC email for all TC communications. Currently, student email accounts use the student’s A number as the email username. The use of A numbers for student email accounts has been in place for a long time, and with strong passwords, these accounts are protected. Therefore, using the A number as the student email username does not pose an issue for requiring students to use their TC email for communication. However, ensuring students use their TC email for communication will require a coordinated effort across campus, as the ITS department does not directly engage with students. Additionally, transitioning from the A number to a format based on the student’s first and last names is feasible without technical challenges. Discussions with the VP of Student Services and the Dean of Student Success have taken place, and both have agreed to support this initiative. ITS will collaborate with Student Services and Instruction to move the project forward, and updates will be provided as progress is made.

**Next Meeting:** December meeting is cancelled due to winter break**.**

**Respectfully submitted by Xiaohong Li**