

University Information Technology Committee Minutes
Monday, 3-25-2024
9:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ufl.zoom.us/my/cacim/>

Present: Aitor Gallastegui, Herbert Lowe, Megan Leroy, Caleb Huo, Frank Bova, Alyssa Tavormina, Juan Claudio Nino, Mark McCallister, Nico Cellinese, PJ Brucat, Randell Doty, Ryan Yang, Charley Widmer, Raymond Issa (Chair), Rafael Munoz-Carpena, Laurie Bialosky and Elias Eldayrie (guest).

1. Call to order– Raymond Issa, Chair, University Information Technology Committee
The meeting was called to order by University Information Technology Committee Chair Raymond Issa at 9:31 a.m.
2. Approval of 26 February 2024 Minutes
A motion to approve the minutes was made by Frank Bova and seconded by Randall Doty. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Presentation on UF ERP plans by Elias Eldayrie, Vice President & CIO - Empowering UF

- **Quick recap**

Elias Eldayrie discussed the installation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software at the university, with a focus on the implementation of Workday and Deloitte as the vendor and implementation partner respectively. He outlined the timeline for the project, emphasizing the need for strong change management, reliable reporting systems, and the importance of user feedback and customization.

The committee discussed the potential impact of upcoming AI regulations, the need to upgrade production computers to Windows 11, and a project to replace the current IT ticketing platform with a new cloud platform called 'Team Dynamics'.

Raymond Issa was unanimously re-elected as chair of the UF IT Senate Committee for 2024-25.

- **Discussing New ERP Software for University**

Elias Eldayrie discussed the installation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software at the university. Elias provided a presentation on the current system, which is over 20 years old and struggles to keep up with university growth and advances in technology. He noted that Oracle, the current vendor, will stop supporting the system by 2030, giving the university a chance to make a transition. Elias presented a timeline of three to four years for implementation, followed by a six to twelve-month optimization period. The new system will replace various modules including finance, payroll, HR, grants management, and data reporting but will not include the student system.

- **Revisiting and Improving Enterprise Business Processes**

Elias emphasized the importance of revisiting and possibly changing the existing business processes across the enterprise to ensure they meet current needs and comply with regulations. He acknowledged that this would be a challenging task, requiring buy-in from everyone involved. Elias also discussed the need for strong change management, with a dedicated team ensuring clarity and understanding among employees. Lastly, he touched on the importance of reliable reporting systems that integrate and present data from various enterprise systems.

- **University of Florida ERP System Upgrade**

Elias discussed the planning and implementation timeline of the new ERP system at the University of Florida. The process began in 2020, was interrupted by Covid, and resumed in 2021. After a comprehensive readiness and assessment process, the team recommended Workday and Deloitte as the vendor and implementation partner respectively. The University officially signed contracts with both in March 2024, with a targeted start date for implementation in July 2024, and completion expected in July 2027. A 6-8 month period has been allocated for optimization of the system, with an additional 20% of adjustments expected to be made over the next 20 years. A price hold option has been negotiated with Workday for UF Health, but the decision to use it is pending their own deliberation.

- **Consolidating Departmental Systems With Workday**

Elias discussed the consolidation of various departmental systems into a single administrative system, with the aim of improving University finances and talent management (an AI-integrated benefit). The project, involving the integration of multiple existing systems into the new Workday implementation, is set to start in July and is expected to be fully operational by July 2024, with a further 6 to 12 months dedicated to optimizing it. Elias emphasized the importance of a unified system for holistic management and the benefits of Workday, as well as addressing security aspects and the challenges with the current faculty evaluation, promotion, and tenure system. He concluded by outlining the project's governance, the intention to engage faculty, and the estimated 2,300 people involved in the project directly and indirectly.

- **Tool Customization and AI Regulations**

Juan Claudio Nino expressed concerns about the tool's limitations and the need for customization, which Elias explained had been a deliberate decision due to the tool's global usage. Rafael Munoz-Carpena and Elias discussed the upcoming AI regulations and their potential impact, with Elias noting that UF is approaching AI implementation cautiously. Frank Bova expressed concerns about the implementation's progress in the area of tenure and promotion, with Elias assuring that it would be dealt with separately. Juan Claudio Nino

emphasized the importance of user feedback and customization, with Elias responding that these changes would be possible in the new system.

- **Project Timeline and Presentation Update**

Elias guided the committee through a presentation on a project's timeline, which involved testing the system with recruited participants from across the campus. It was noted that the team had consulted with colleagues and institutions who had already implemented similar systems to improve their own. Frank Bova requested a condensed or slide deck to present at college council meetings. Elias and Raymond Issa confirmed that the presentation would be available for use, and they would be happy to provide further information and materials as the project progresses.

4. **Administrative Liaison Report - Mark McCallister, Director of Academic Technology**

- **Upgrading Computers to Windows 11 and Replacing Platforms**

Mark McCallister, Director of Academic Technology, emphasized the need to upgrade all production computers to Windows 11 by October 14, 2025, due to Microsoft's discontinuation of security updates for Windows 10. He highlighted the importance of this upgrade, as Windows 11 has significant hardware requirements, and computers over about 5 years old may not meet them. Additionally, Mark announced a project to replace the current IT ticketing platform with a new cloud platform called 'Team Dynamics'. The team also discussed the challenges of upgrading to Windows 11 and the potential need to replace some devices that are decades old. No further questions or feedback were raised by the end of the meeting.

5. **Committee Chair Election and AI Guidelines**

- The main focus was the election of the 2024/2025 committee chair, with Charley Widmer taking over after Raymond was nominated but decided to cede the role as chair for the election. Raymond Issa was unanimously approved to continue to chair the UF IT Senate Committee.
- Lastly, the committee discussed the guidelines for AI teaching and research. By the end of May, the guidelines are expected to be available for feedback.

6. **Other Business**

- None

7. **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by University Technology Committee Member Charley Widmer.