# Technology Advisory Group

Board Room – District Office, Room 102

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2019**

**Members Present:** Robert Bustamante, Tammy Cottrell, Jesse Gonzalez, Susan Hoang, Sergio Rodriguez, John Steffens, Pat Weekes

**Members Absent:** Scott James

**Supporting Members:** Dane Clacken, Stuart Davis , Jorge Forero, Michael Hoang, Dean Hopkins, Daniel Oase, Randy Scott, Juan Briseno – SAC Student

**Discussion**

1. Call to Order
   * Meeting called to order at 2:31 p.m.
2. First reading: Updated Districtwide Technology Plan

* Mr. Gonzalez conducted the first reading of the updated Districtwide Technology Plan consisting of the strategic goals, themes and initiatives and cited various examples.
* The updated version is in accordance with the changes discussed and agreed by representatives from TAG, SACTAC and SCCTEC at previous meetings throughout the year.
* Mr. Gonzalez noted that the purpose is for the framework to become an institutional process that will sustain technology planning and delivery at large.
* The majority of the changes begins on page 17. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the updated version is available on the ITS intranet, but the Technology Plan 2017-2020 is still the version posted on the TAG website. He will provide the updated version on the TAG Team site as requested by the committee. If there are other changes, he hopes to receive feedback and will discuss/update accordingly.

1. Computer replacement plan: lease versus purchase as requested by Mr. James.

* Mr. Gonzalez reported that historically, SCC has had issues with their computer replacement plan budget allocation. Unlike SAC, SCC doesn’t have a surplus/carryover funding that can be relied upon for computer replacement. Hence, Mr. James requested ITS to gather information if there’s any gain with computer lease versus purchase.
* In response to this request, Mr. Gonzalez provided some of his findings from other colleges.
  + College of the Canyons: Doesn’t consider leasing. Bond funding is the funding source for their computer replacement, which are one-time funds only. As such, there is no provision to allow for the ongoing expenses of a lease.
  + College of Marin: Lease did not work for them. 3-year lease term was too short. They ended up having to use time and resources to replace computers that were in perfectly good condition to abide by the lease term. This was aggravated by the fact that the lease expiration date was the same for all computers in the lease. If you don’t return the computers on time, you continue to pay for them. Also, the college was responsible for shipping costs, which added up due to volume.
  + Ultimately, leasing is not an option that would address the right problem and it comes with additional logistical challenges, which may make it a more expensive option at the end. We need to device a viable plan that is sustainable to address the computer replacement budget issue at SCC.
* Mr. Rodriguez asked whether a centrally funded model would be better suited for college replacement plans.
* Mr. Steffens stated that there is no ongoing funding for computer replacements at SAC either and that the replacements that have occurred have been possible only due to carryover funding.
* Mr. Gonzalez summed up that the common issue to solve is the lack of ongoing funding for technology replacements at both colleges.
* Mr. Gonzalez suggested the need to present the challenges at FRC. It may be most beneficial to advocate for funding for a districtwide computer replacement budget allocation.
* Another option would be desktop virtualization. This initiative gears towards ease of use and expanded functionality and requires standardization of software districtwide. However, the hardware costs are higher as it uses enterprise servers, network and storage, which are more expensive. This will also require a budget allocation to be recommended to FRC.
* Virtualization may be a good initiative to be marketed to faculty since education is heading more heavily towards online education.
* Mr. Gonzalez stated that we may need to opt for a hybrid solution since turning everything virtual may be a challenge. Discussions ensued.
* Mr. Steffens proposed to form a taskforce to conduct an evaluation to help provide a formal recommendation to FRC. Mr. Gonzalez to start a polling process through the TAG Team site to see who’s interested in participating in this taskforce.

1. Technology Update – Colleges

SAC – J. Steffens

* Mr. Steffens reported that SACTAC has finalized drafting their technology initiatives and they will be approved at their next meeting.
* Starfish agreement has been finalized and will be presented at the December Board meeting for approval. Mr. Steffens to schedule the initial kick-off meeting to discuss implementation related processes and ground work required.
* Guided Pathways website re-design is still in progress. They are conducting some final touchups and corrections to known issues. Working on the next phase proposal to be submitted to vendor.

SCC – S. Rodriguez

* Mr. Rodriguez reported that he has been informed by SCC Financial Aid that student attendance is being audited by the Department of Education. Sheena Tran will present information at the next Academic Senate meeting regarding this issue.

1. Self-Service update
   * Mr. Davis reported that ITS brought in an Ellucian consultant on-site for 3 days working with our Applications team. Self-Service is now 85% configured and fully operational on a non-production environment. ITS to begin scheduling testing the system with SAC and SCC project managers and key end users.

* ITS has identified 27 potential operational concerns which have already been presented to functional groups that meet every two weeks. Through their regular meeting discussions, they were able to address 3 of the 27 operational issues. Other issues will fall under the project managers at the colleges.
* Ms. Hoang suggested to inform Academic Senate and other groups about the project. Ms. Hoang to coordinate with Mr. Steffens for SAC. Mr. Davis to coordinate with Mr. Rodriguez for SCC.
* There are three remaining meetings with Ellucian consultant to be scheduled up to March 2020 to obtain technical assistance with the following:
  + Student billing and payment
  + Second engagement regarding WebAdvisor customized elements
  + Discussions with operational users regarding identified operational issues and advise on a workflow to address those issues
* Once a definite plan of action is finalized, we will need work on how to implement marketing and training for staff, faculty and students. We have a March 2020 deadline to get things prepared.
* Mr. Steffens commented that since it takes time to gather feedback from functional users, it is critical to conduct those operational issue discussions as early and often as possible. This will give us an idea to identify their pain points and discuss alternative solutions. He also suggested a “soft” launch in Summer to address gaps and possibly resolve them by Fall.

1. Ellucian Cloud Contract Final Numbers

* Mr. Gonzalez announced that the early renewal contract will be presented at the December Board meeting for approval.
* The contract is retroactive from August 2019 and ends in October 2020. Mr. Gonzalez shared that our monthly cost will increase exponentially if we don’t choose to renew early.
* The early renewal additional cost funded by ITS is $478,112. Future one-year contract cost is $438,084 and three-year contract cost is $357,252 beyond the existing ITS budget. ITS had to push a number of initiatives in order to fund the renewal. ITS is unable to continue to fund the ongoing costs of the contract in future renewals without a budget allocation request.
* Mr. Gonzalez reminded the group of an effort he’s already coordinating with other colleges with regards to assessing other alternatives and producing a cost analysis of how much it will cost to self-host in the cloud. ITS is also working with a consultant who has experience scaling and reducing computing resources in the cloud as needed, which will make us more efficient if accomplished.
* Mr. Gonzalez stated that self-hosting in the cloud can be potentially more cost effective since we would have the authority to turn the power off when systems are not in use and expand and contract resources if we so choose. We do not have this option with the Ellucian cloud.
* Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion for TAG members to support requesting a budget allocation request for $357,252 annually to fund the 3-year contract cost after October 2020. This motion would be approved with the condition that ITS provide a cost analysis of alternative solutions, including self-hosting in the cloud. A motion was made by Mr. Steffens and seconded by Mr. Bustamante. Motion carried by majority. Mr. Scott opposed.

1. Approval of TAG Minutes – November 7, 2019

* Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion to approve the TAG Minutes of November 7, 2019 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by, Mr. Steffens, seconded by Mr. Bustamante and carried by majority. Mr. Rodriguez abstained as he was not present at the last TAG meeting.

1. Other – Tabled for next meeting

* Membership and responsibilities update
* Desktop and laptop standards
* Districtwide Intranet

**Informational Handouts**

* Colleague Cloud Contract Early Renewal Cost

**Next Meeting Reminder: February 6, 2020; Board Room (DIST-107)**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.