SCEDIT Meeting Minutes-Senate Copy

Oct. 18, 2024 3 pm - 4 pm ET
[Speaker names redacted]

Attending: Caterina Reed, Matthew Reuter, Shyam Sharma, Keri Hollander, Scott Campbell, Simeon Ananou, Victoria Pilato, Richard Larson

The meeting convened at 3 pm.

Minutes of the last meeting on 9/20 were passed, and the agenda was approved.
SCEDIT co-chair Cynthia Davidson reviewed some information items.

1. Brenda Anderson, University Senate president, will meet with the co-chairs at the next coordinating council meeting to discuss membership issues, particularly the appointment of Doug Swesty (former member) into a natural sciences slot. We will also discuss adjusting the by-laws to move Victoria Pilato out of the HSC slot and into a second Library slot, as well as creating a new professional slot. The former co-chair of SCEDIT asked if we were still interested in adding Moises Eisenberg and Lenore Lamanna as appointed members. If pending by-law changes, we could only bring one appointed member to HSC. Moises and Lenore will be contacted to gauge interest in the interim.

2. It was confirmed that past chairs could serve as ad hoc advisory members to the committee.

3. A feedback link on a new clicker/polling device for students was shared with members and reshared.

A question was asked if newly appointed members should be confirmed by SCEDIT vote after their nomination. The answer was that there was no hard-set procedure for doing so, but it seemed like a sound practice and could be brought up at the next executive committee meeting.

Discussion items:
1. Digital governance framework:
Former SCEDIT co-chair stated that a digital governance framework for the university has been in the works for many years, that the current situation has too many individuals making campus-wide decisions that may not align with what the campus wants to happen, and that he had been asked to make decisions that he didn't feel he should hold sole responsibility for without established policies and procedures.

Simeon Ananou, campus CIO, then presented a summary of all the work that has been done on the digital governance framework plan to date. Simeon began his tenure as CIO by going around campus and interviewing all sorts of community members, around 300 in all, on their priorities for technology on campus. He stated, "ultimately, what the community was asking us to do, at least from the way that might, for my perspective, the Stony Brook University Community

is asking us to create an equitable digital ecosystem and an environment where everyone can consume our digital resources and an equitable way, and along the way, we also realize that we needed to create some pillars around which we can tie our efforts and remain grounded." The goal is to enable innovation and transformation while protecting the university and its assets. The framework has several parts, with representatives from the campus populating each group: 1, an operational review group for technical feasibility, 2, a business review group for fiscal feasibility, and 3, a culture and spirit review group (now called stakeholder engagement) to bring in faculty, students, and other affected parties for new projects involving technology. This is (at present) for projects that would require at least $100,000 to budget. Simeon requested SCEDIT to appoint or elect a member to sit on the Stakeholder group.

A committee member asked how this plan would deal with future catastrophic emergencies, such as the one we had in 2020 with COVID lockdowns and sudden changes in technological infrastructure. The response was that an issue like this would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, but in such situations, the CIO needs to be able to make executive decisions.

The CIO was asked if he had surveyed the faculty to get a wider range of views in his information-gathering project across campus. He responded that he primarily uses existing stakeholder groups to gather that information.

It was suggested and agreed that Braden Hosch's office could help with surveys and data compilation. This committee could help DoIT coordinate with Braden and his office to create effective, secure surveys and manage the data results.

It was suggested that the Libraries should be represented in a digital framework committee since they work with the entire campus to deploy several important technologies. This will be considered now.

2. A discussion point about Symantec Antivirus being discontinued on campus and its replacement was started [this was being discussed in Spring 2024]. A past co-chair of SCEDIT suggested that the DoIT member who presented this topic last Spring should be invited back to inform since they would be the most knowledgeable.

3. Research subcommittee: It was suggested that the committee find a liaison from the University Research Committee (as Iris Fineberg had previously been). Presently, no one on SCEDIT is also on the Research committee.

4. Suggestions were made on the shared Google document for an AI advisory subcommittee or role for SCEDIT and a more general tech role that would have some input into academic dishonesty. With a good deal of overlap in these roles/goals, a committee member said that these days everything involves AI, so maybe we shouldn't split out AI as its own separate thing. Someone stated they were also curious about who we would be advising, and it was agreed that the Senate would be a prime target if they wanted our advice. Our senate committee liaison said there was no doubt the Senate would want our committee input. The advisory role of our

committee would be to separate out "noise from signal" and act as a kind of hub (clearinghouse?) for the kinds of information and projects that the campus community is engaging in related to tech issues. The CIO pointed out that many of the platforms we currently have do have an AI component already embedded; however, we currently do not have policies to guide the use of many of those tools, and we are working on some guidelines since people are using "everything under the sun" and putting sensitive data into large language models.

5. The forthcoming subcommittees should be **Research, AI advisory, and Academic Dishonesty and Technology**. We will work on mission statements for these subcommittees asynchronously before our next meeting.

7. A final discussion item was "professional faculty subcommittee reviewing and discussing issues related to joint professional and faculty projects challenges communication conflicts." Former SCEDIT co-chair stated that the Professional Senate bylaws are currently being set up, moving from having a PEG board to a full Senate. Diana Voss was suggested as a good person for the SCEDIT liaison.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.