The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Educational & Research Technologies Committee
Minutes
427a Waterman
February 10, 2020

Present: Nick Bouffard (SGA), Thomas Chittenden (Faculty Senate President), Hung Do (BSAD), Deb
             Ellis (CAS), Lutz Kaelber (CAS), Jane Petrillo (CALS), Helen Read (CEMS), Regina Toolin
             (CESS), Scott Vanson (GSS)

Absent: Luben Dimov (RSENR), Elise Hotaling (LCOM), Tim Tourville (CNHS), Marie Wood
             (LCOM), Lyman Ross (LIB)

Guests: Simeon Ananou, Mike Austin, Alex Messinger

Co-Chair Helen Read called the meeting to order at 9:05 am in Waterman 427a.

1. **Minutes. The minutes of Novemember 2019 and January 2020 were approved as written.**

2. **Online Course Evaluation Update.** Thomas Chittenden reported that the integrated course evaluation
   platform came online this Fall, and he provided an update on the data from the first semester use. There was
   a 62% average participation rate, which may be due to the integrated nature. Response rates were increased
   within units already using online evals. Some units that had been using paper evals experienced a decrease
   in participation rates. It is expected that participation rates will continue to increase as the platform
   becomes more universally utilized. The trust factor is important for students. If they know that the request
   is from UVM, they are more likely to respond. Next steps: additional units will begin using the platform, in
   the Spring. Discussion included the timing of when evaluations are open for students, when they close, and
   when faculty are able to see the results of the evaluations. Thomas described the timing that ensures that the
   evaluations are completed prior to students viewing their final grades, and that faculty are not able to see the
   results until after the final grades are posted. It was suggested that it is important for students to know that
   faculty cannot see the evaluations before grades are submitted. Discussion also included the desire of
   students to have access to some of the evaluation data.

3. **Faculty / Staff Managed Computers Task Force.**   Ian Davis presented an overview of the Local Admin
   Taskforce Report. The presented slides are attached below.

Overview/Timeline

- September 2018 – Charge set by Simeon at Collaborative IT Meeting

- November 2018 – Taskforce created

- December 2018 – Survey sent out to IT-DISCUSS List

- January – September 2019 – Multiple meetings/waiting for feedback

- October 2019 – Final report delivered to Simeon, Collaborative IT, and IT-DISCUSS

Members

Ian Davis – *College of Engineering and Mathematics*
Andy Green – *College of Arts and Sciences*
Heather Matthews – *Transportation and Parking*
John Cooley – *UVM Extension*
Pamala Smith – *Howe Library-Access & Tech Services*
Sam Hooker – *Information Security Office*
Zach Bardesco – *ETS Client Service*
Geoff Duke – *Systems Architecture & Administration*

Local Admin Risks

Running as local admin all the time can:

- Increase risk of malicious software compromising machine

- Increase fallout of a compromise

- Increase ability to change system settings resulting in instability

Survey Results Overview

- 15 Responses accounting for ~2,750 computers
- 14/15 respondents provide admin access directly to users
- Most common method is adding user to local admin group
- Most common use of admin credentials is installing/upgrading software

Survey Takeaways

- Most practices are based on how things have always been done, not too many were "developed" based on best practice
- Consensus that users not having admin access would increase workload
- Some alluded to users requiring admin access to perform job functions unimpeded
- Some alluded to users not having admin access would create "bad blood" between users and IT

Taskforce Results: Baseline Recommendations

- Everyday user account should not have admin rights
- Default local Administrator account should have strong/unique password
- Default local Administrator account should be disabled
- Computer should be enrolled in management system (Active Directory or JAMF)

Taskforce Results: Local Admin Security Levels

Level One

- All baseline recommendations

- User has separate account for administrative privileges (only to be used when needed)

Level Two

- All baseline recommendations

- User does not have any administrative access

Taskforce Results: Special-use Recommendations

- Edge cases exist (public use, classroom, research, computer lab, etc.)

- Should be approached case-by-case

- Report has more recommendations

Taskforce Results: Potential Future Implementations

- System to enforce uniqueness of default Administrator account password

- System to recover/reset default Administrator account password

- Expand managed software repository so not as many users need admin rights

4. **Digital Citizenship, Simeon Ananou.** To request a complete copy of the presntation please e-mail the Faculty Senate Office at Faculty.Senate@uvm.edu.

5. **Old Business.**
   - Simeon Ananou reported a change in direction for the Educause working group. The survey that was planned will be pushed back to after graduation, and small focus groups will be held instead.

6. **New Business. There was no new business at this time.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

The next meeting of the ERTC will take place on April 16th at 9:00am in Waterman 427a.