

Wayne State University Academic Senate
Facilities, Support Services and Technology Committee
Proceedings from the Wednesday February 23, 2022 via Zoom

Present: Paul Beavers, Brian Edwards, Jane Fitzgibbon, Nasrin Nesha, Mary Paquette-Abt, Avraham Raz

Absent: Faisal Almurfarrej, Elizabeth Drake, Melissa Crabtree, Paul Dubinsky, Erica Edwards, Daniel Golodner, Lisa O'Donnell, Avraham Raz, Michael Samson, Jennifer Stockdill, Jeffrey Withey

Guest: Garrett McManaway will be with us to discuss Security.
Sean Campbell on behalf of Ashley Flintoff to discuss State Hall.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 via ZOOM.
2. The Proceedings from January 26, 2021 were approved.
3. Garrett McManaway discussed the Microsoft in Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) and what that means for the university.

He explained that the first element that we are most familiar with is a password pass phrase pin or cell phone token. As many people have iPhones or Apple devices, they use fingerprints or face ID as a security check. In employing MFA, the university is doing our due diligence to meet certain regulation and contractual insurance requirements. See Slide 4. The current standard at WSU is minimum of 9 characters and depending on how they are arranged determines the strength of a password. He noted that they would prefer that everyone adopt the 14-character password as it becomes almost impossible for that password to be hacked. The advantage of this is that it never has to be changed. The chart showed that a 14-character password with a mix of numeric, alphas, (Upper and Lower case) and symbols would take 200M years to crack.

MFA is being enforced for the users of the following

- Academica SSO (Banner Self Service, Banner Admin) – Current
- VPN and other remote access – Current
- C&IT Administration – Current
- E-Mail and O365 (Teams) – Current
- CCTS (Desktech) issued computers – Current for migrated customers
- Canvas – TBD
- SaaS or Cloud Based applications when offered

McManaway explained that the university currently uses Duo Security for some application authorization. However, they were recently purchased by Cisco, who is not “education friendly.” This is the rationale for the switch to the Microsoft MFA system. It also ensures that because we are all tied to the university system with universal authentication, the university can assure that all access is both secure and uniform.

Another advantage of a universal MFA is a cost saving. Not having to maintain multiple security systems across various platforms is an overall benefit to the university.

He also discussed the number of emails we have. As of the meeting, he estimated that we have 200,000 users. This includes students, faculty, administration and retirees, in addition to multi-mailboxes. By having so many email accounts without a strong security system, we run the risk of phishing and rogue apps that could impact our ability to function.

We asked about the loss of use of the iPhone mail client and calendar. McManaway stated that it requires the use of the latest IOS software. That allows for authentication. Apparently, there is a way to do this and those that are interested should contact him for help.

Nasrin Nesha said that students who are Apply users did not like the change and it was causing frustration to them.

Brian Edwards discussed how this change has cause a problem for him with research, as he has two legacy programs that he can no longer access.

The consensus was that while we understood the need for security, this change has not been a benefit to students and faculty.

We also discussed the timing of the implementation. In the future we ask them to not implement changes of this magnitude specifically right before final exams, as it created undue stress for all faculty.

Avraham Raz asked about the issue between a WSU employee and the compatibility with the McLaren Health Care system, which causes issues with his research and work. As no resolution could be achieved, the matter was deferred to another time.

4. Sean Campbell presented to the meeting more details on the State Hall Renovation. State Hall will be closed in May 2022 for the start of the renovation project. Part of the planning process has been meeting with various teaching and student groups who use state to develop plans for classroom sizes and usage.

He showed different renderings of layouts and classrooms. The large classrooms will be on the first floor with medium and small on the second and third floors. As noted in the previous presentation, it will include new spaces and all innovative technology. It would also include light sensitive window treatments similar to that at the Mike Ilitch Business School.

The committee liked the idea to provide study alcoves and locations for students, where they could work together. The goal to improve the student experience. Campbell discussed how some of the windows will be changed and how some of the

non-load bearing walls will be moved. There will be upgrades in the electrical and HEVAC systems.

Paul Beavers congratulated them for incorporating large amounts of space for white boards to accommodate teaching.

The issue of ADA access was discussed, and we were assured that when finished State Hall will exceed the minimum requirement.

Concern was raised about whether classrooms would have the ability to allow students to join remotely in the event of another “close down” or if they are sick. Since the return to class students who are “ill” have requested that we provide access via Zoom to classes. This is an issue because if a class is “in-person” there is an expectation that they will show up. There was no resolution to this issue.

The committee felt that it should be discussed with the provost.

5. It was agreed that we would reach out to Nathen Chavez to discuss Canvas for the March 23, meeting.

Jane Fitzgibbon
Attachment MFA ISMC. PPTX