

Information Security Advisory Committee

Report on Committee Activities during 2014-2015 Academic Year

September 1, 2015

To: Tim Redman, Speaker of the Faculty Senate

From: Ravi Prakash, Chair, Information Security Advisory Committee

The Information Security Advisory Committee (ISAC) was composed of the following:

Faculty:

- Ravi Prakash (ECS): Chair
- Tres Thompson (BBS): Vice Chair
- Joe Izen (NSM)
- Fang Qiu (EPPS)
- Kevin Hamlen (ECS)
- Dinesh Bhatia (ECS)

Staff Council:

- Daniel Calhoun (University Police Department)

Student Government:

- Daniel Zinni

Ex-Officio:

- University Attorney (Tim Shaw)
- Chief Information Security Officer (Nate Howe)

Outside the University:

- Eric Matthews (City of Richardson)

In addition, Deputy Speaker Murray Leaf (EPPS) and the then Chief Information Officer Dr. Andrew Blanchard attended multiple meetings and provided valuable feedback.

ISAC was constituted by the Academic Senate in 2012 to advise the University of Texas at Dallas Chief Information Security Officer in planning and testing measures to provide security of university information resources in such a way as to comply with UT System security requirements for university information.

ISAC met four times during the year on the following dates: 9/26/2014, 10/24/2014, 2/27/2015 and 3/27/2015.

ISAC's interaction with the University CISO has been very cordial and productive. The Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) has actively sought faculty input on information security issues, has been extremely forthcoming in answering the committee's queries, and has promptly shared information about security breaches and mitigation efforts.

Issues discussed by the committee include the following: vulnerability scanning and resolution, two-factor authentication options to protect high-value transactions, server room walkthroughs, server registry, replacement of Absolute Manage software, identity and access management, CAR forms processing issues and related security concerns, linking of websites to the university webpage, Windows Domain permissions, determination of "university data," procedures to determine presence of such data on personal machines, use of cloud services for data storage and collaboration (specifically Box.com), and security concerns about migrating faculty and staff email accounts to Microsoft.

In addition, ISAC reviewed the Information Security Policy Draft and suggested modifications that were incorporated into the revised draft by the CISO and the University Attorney before it was presented to the Faculty Senate.

In addition, the CISO also shared drafts of the University Security Policy document for ISAC members to comment on.

ISAC was able to perform its advisory role thanks to the excellent working relationship with the CISO. Daniel Calhoun, the Staff Council representative, and Eric Matthews, Deputy CIO of the City of Richardson and a UTD alumnus, also provided valuable insights. The only area of concern was the non-participation by the Student Government representative who neither attended any meeting, nor responded to any email.