

# NDSU INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*Delivering core solutions and propelling innovation*

**NDSU IT Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2020, 2 p.m.**  
**Online, using MS Teams**

## **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Marc Wallman, Jason Blosser, Enrique Garcia, Dean Gross, Maggie Latterell, Mary McCall, Joe Mocnik, John Morrison, Robert Pieri, Florin Salajan, Dane Skow, Steve Sobiech, Kristi Steinmann, Kimberly Wallin; CeCe Rohwedder

**Unable to attend:** Ed Deckard, Matthew Friedmann

1. Members were welcomed.
2. Budget update: the division is facing some challenges, in part due to revenue resulting from people disconnecting phones.
3. Strategic prioritization:
  - Marc met with the Huron consultants on their strategic prioritization work. Dr. Wallin met with the consultants, as well, and workshops with the deans will be held next week.
  - Information on this project is available via recordings of the Provost's Conversations with Colleagues events.
  - It is unknown at this time how the IT Division will be impacted.
4. Classroom technology in spring semester:
  - Jason said that ITS is equally split between supporting faculty in HyFlex and continuing to roll out the video portion of HyFlex.
  - Some teaching spaces have asbestos so no ceiling mikes could be installed, so catch boxes have been provided instead.
  - Probably all classrooms have at least one camera installed; installing the second camera and fine-tuning the programming comes next. The next phase is the Zoom room computing – the equipment has been ordered.
  - In terms of planning for refreshing, ITS is now working with the newly revised budget of \$260-270K available for refresh vs. the original \$2M+; reserves will need to be used, and proposals will be presented to Marc for his consideration.
  - There are other projects underway, as well, including work in Sugihara Hall and the relocation of various NDSU departments.
5. Student use of alternative formats (Ally):
  - A draft of the accessibility policy is being reviewed to incorporate changes recommended by VP Bollinger.

- Jason would welcome feedback from faculty on Ally.
- All of the available formats are being implemented except for the translation component. The alternative formats automatically generate, though their quality depends on how the content is created.
- The response from students thus far has been positive, and the faculty who are members of the accessibility committee are excited with the potential impact of this resource.
- The STEM disciplines are the most challenging in optimizing some alternative formats.

6. Department meetings are underway: classroom technologies is the one theme that is emerging.

[Mary McCaul left the meeting, at 2:35 p.m.]

7. NDUS update:

- There are changes coming to O365 that will make it difficult for us to have our own computing and may necessitate us reverting to our own O365 instance.
- ND State Government wants us to install security equipment that concerns us, as it would expand on the ability for access to our computers. Dr. Pieri noted that security is of great concern in a remote teaching and working environment.

8. IT Division department updates:

- ECI: Steve reported on the upgrade to TYPO3 scheduled to take place during spring break, over the weekend; no changes will be allowed during a specified time frame prior to the upgrade, and this will be communicated to campus. The new version will be better supported by TYPO3.
- ITS: Jason said that next week we'll migrate to a new voice mail system; some of the features in our current system are flash-dependent, which has been deprecated. As the campus gears up with longer-term budget ramifications, with more phones getting disconnected, some of the expenses associated with phone lines need to be absorbed by the remaining phone users. Also, the refresh period has been changed from three years to four, and communications with vendors are underway to determine a refresh cycle that would make optimum use of equipment functionality capacity and life cycles.
- CCAST: Dane said we are on target to install the new supercomputer being acquired with grant funds – it is expected to be up and running before fall semester.

9. Other:

- Dr. Gross said that cell access (he uses an Android) in the lower part of the Aldevron tower is challenging when DUO authentication is needed. Steve said that Pete Lambertz has been working with Verizon, and they've given us several devices to test that would be helpful with cell reception; EN is also working on improving cell reception in that area as well as some others on campus. Enrique suggested that the information at [https://guide.duo.com/static/images/en/android-duo-dark-theme\\_2x.png](https://guide.duo.com/static/images/en/android-duo-dark-theme_2x.png) may be helpful.
- Dr. Gross asked about the in-person staffing of the Help Desk during holiday weekends – the hours it is staffed are posted online, at <https://www.ndsu.edu/it/help/>.

10. Next meeting set for Monday, March 15, at 2 p.m.

11. The meeting was adjourned.