

# Academic Computing Committee

Annual Report to the Oakland University Senate and Provost

**Chair:** Chris Wilson (SHS) Fall 2021, Brendan Kredell (CAS) Winter 2022 (interim)

## ***2021-2023 Faculty Appointments***

Jason Moore (SEHS), Atiqul Mollah (SECS), Maria Beam (CAS), Yazan Roumani (SBA), Tracey Taylor (SOM)

**2020-2022 Faculty Appointments:** Chris Wilson (SHS), Randy Gu (SECS), Sam Srauy (CAS), Bridget Kies (CAS), Brendan Kredell (CAS)

## ***2021-2022 Student, Staff and Ex-Officio Appointments***

Lunjin Lu (Chair, Computer Science and Engineering), Bhavani Koneru (Chief Information Officer), Shaun Moore (EVPAA and Provost Designee), Adam Gordon (CSITS), VACANT (President Student Chapter ACM)

**Meetings during this term:** September 27, 2021; November 8, 2021; February 23, 2022; April 22, 2022.

## **Major decisions and discussion items:**

1. Continuing upon past work of the committee, we continued to discuss issues regarding software licensing. This has been a recurring issue for years and continues to become more complex. Among the primary software packages discussed this year were IBM SPSS and Adobe Acrobat.

2. Much of the committee's attention since spring 2020 has focused on the impact of COVID on how faculty conduct their research and teaching in virtual and hybrid environments. These discussions continued this year.
3. Information security was an increasing emphasis this year for the committee. We fielded a number of inquiries from colleagues concerned about how Oakland was hardening its defenses against cyberattack in the run-up to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. UTS had already been working on the campus-wide implementation of multi-factor authentication for 2022, and the ACC worked with UTS on its roll-out.
4. The committee engaged with CSITS on its work to upgrade classroom technology to facilitate hybrid learning and lecture capture. Many units rely on specially equipped classrooms that are administered by units or schools for their teaching needs, while UTS prioritizes general purpose classrooms in its upgrades. The cost for upgrade is often beyond the means of individual units, so a mechanism needs to be in place, perhaps through dean's offices, for funding the upgrades of special purpose classrooms.
5. The committee continued to hear reports of technology equity and access issues, both with students and with faculty. Particular concern was raised regarding the facilities and hardware made available to contingent faculty on-campus. The committee will monitor how existing efforts (including the development of faculty workspace in Dodge Hall) address these needs and make recommendations as necessary.

## **Key Priority Recommendations:**

1. Turnover time for IT acquisition and compliance. It has improved somewhat but remains a major time barrier for teaching and research. Prioritization process may need to be implemented or revisited to not impact grant funding or research. There may be an opportunity to expand the list of pre-approved software that has already been through the approval process so that the UTS team does not have to reconsider previously approved software uses.
2. We would recommend to have one single point of contact for all IT issues for faculty.
3. A single IT source and resource is strongly supported by the faculty in order to streamline IT services and improve customer service with fewer delays and faculty contacting an incorrect department/person for IT needs.
4. Zoom continues to be an integral component in classroom learning and many students are using it to still login to some in-person classes if they cannot make it due to illness or transportation. Zoom and Google Suite continues to be a value-add and is highly recommended to be retained for the long-term future.
5. Standardized onboarding to IT technology would be highly recommended for all new faculty for Moodle, Zoom, Banner, etc. Maybe consider offering it as an additional day/session to the New Faculty Orientation (also recommend opening this to existing faculty or recorded and made available to existing faculty).
6. Some academic units do not have consistent access for contingent/part-time faculty to be able to access computers for class prep, etc. This tends to be a

blurred line between the specific Deans' Offices and UTS and additional dialogue between the Deans' Offices and UTS is encouraged.

7. CSITS has invited faculty to join a classroom technology subcommittee and the Academic Computing Committee is in support of this and looks forward to future dialogue.

The committee wishes to recognize Randy Gu, Bridget Kies, Brendan Kredell and Chris Wilson for successful completion of their term and thanks them sincerely for their service and welcomes Sam Srauy back for another 2-year reappointment term. Special thanks to Brendan Kredell for serving as Chair in the Winter 2022 semester during Chris Wilson's sabbatical.

New Chair will be Sam Srauy.

*In another year of COVID which continued to greatly impact the academic process, the committee wishes to convey their immense appreciation for all of the Oakland University computing and information team members and faculty for their diligence, teamwork, wisdom, dedication, and ingenuity in helping the faculty and students continue to navigate the uncertainty of this global pandemic. Your expertise and dedication are noted and appreciated and will not be forgotten. Oakland University is fortunate to have such highly skilled and knowledgeable people and a large part of the success of the university this year is due to you. Ever grateful...*

Respectfully submitted:

Chris Wilson PT, DPT, DScPT

July 15, 2022