Minutes of the Computer Committee meeting held on 25th November 2024 at 13:00pm in the Glover Room

Present: Jason Randall, Ian Elliott, Charlie Weiss, Raphaëlle Goyeau, Jason Carroll, Rebecca Willatt, Sian Lazar, Larry Paulson, Luca Swinnerton (UCS), Qi Guo

Apologies: Phil Ward, Catherine Reid, Aylmer Johnson, Clare Heinbaugh (MCR)

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. MMA

JR has now updated the wording to the Prevent policy on the college website. The Senior Tutor had approved the changes at the last working group meeting which have now fleshed out the previously vague policy. It also references who to contact if you are planning any research into sensitive material to ensure the relevant authorities are aware in advance.

3. Draft Report to Council

JR asked for any ideas or contributions to be added to the report. Currently the report mentions the capital requests for 2025, and cyber security measures being actioned by ourselves which includes our outstanding result of the penetration testing conducted earlier in the year by UIS. It also mentions the very recent upgrade of college finance and purchasing systems along with the news that as of the 1^{st of} October we are fully live with Kinetics.

4. IT Department Update

JR is currently compiling three capital requests (specials) for 2025.

The first one is to provide full internet access for the three remaining student properties which are not connected to the GBN namely Netherfield House, Queen Edith's House and 69 Alpha Road. Since the last meeting, the latter property has seen us purchase a BT Business Broadband package which has provided a temporary solution there. Netherfield House is to be refurbished from July 2025 so we could hopefully tie in the work alongside this. The total cost would be around £30k.

The second request will be to replace the staff network servers which will soon be seven years old and overdue for replacement. JR is investigating specs for potential replacements, and we will be looking to reduce the number of servers from five to two whilst keeping the same resilience. One server will be based at WCDC with the other one based in our Lerner Court server room.

Lastly, we are looking to replace our ten-year-old backup infrastructure. The plan will be to move from the current tape system to cloud storage but as this will involve sending vast amounts of data, we will also need to upgrade our current 1Gb internet link to a 10Gb link to give us better throughput. We currently use 50-75% of our current link all the time.

We are making these requests now as we have been told that funding will be exceedingly difficult in the following two years due to the Memorial Court heating project. Due to the size of the requests three quotes will need to be obtained and JR is putting together a sizing document to send to potential suppliers.

The new firewalls have been in operation since the start of term and the teething problems which affected systems such as the BMS have now been ironed out. PW is currently away on a course which should provide us with ideas on how to utilise the system more efficiently.

UIS are having a new firewall installed on the 5$^{th of}$ December between 06:00 and approximately 07:45 to avoid clashing with exams. This date replaces the previously announced schedules.

We have now received and installed two new Konica Minolta photocopiers in both Development and Catering. They will both be absorbed into the UIS Managed Print Service meaning all of our copiers will be running the same service and will allow us to monitor usage and costs.

The Bursary have upgraded both their SUN finance package and purchasing software (iDocs) over the last week. This has involved a lot of support from the IT Department, but all appears to have gone very well. As always there have been a few teething problems but these have been resolved.

We have no plans for any network maintenance over the Christmas period.

JR will be upgrading osTicket in either late December or early January time permitting. He has already completed a trial upgrade which went well so this should bring us up to date in the New Year.

5. UCS report

LS said that he had received numerous reports of slow Wi-Fi in recent weeks affecting not only student rooms but public areas like the FML/Buttery as well. JR said that we can ask UIS to investigate this, but we would need information such as times, dates and the MAC address of a device that has been affected.

It seems that the Clare_FindMe queue has disappeared from Web Print although if you search for the queue it appears under a different UIS-generated name. JR was aware of issues with Web Print last week, but these had been resolved. He will ask UIS to investigate this latest problem.

JR mentioned that he had spoken to CR about students being unsure how to print from the UMD devices. It appears that when prompted to sign in to the Papercut client they do not always see the prompt to sign in appear in their browser. JR has now created an information poster detailing how to do this which will be displayed in the computer rooms in the FML.

6. MCR report

No MCR rep was present.

7. AOB

None

<u>Date of next meeting</u>

Monday 27th of January 2025 in the Glover Room.

The venue is subject to change due to maintenance on the heating in Lerner Court.