

**University Senate
Information and Communications Technology Committee
Annual Report 2011-2012
September 2012**

Issues covered in 2011-12 -- overview

- Current and future CUIT initiatives – moving to the New CourseWorks – moving to new email provider
- Cloud computing
- Data reproducibility issues
- Distance learning initiatives (with Education and Libraries committees)
- Digital Humanities and Social Sciences initiative
- Data governance update – new ARC reporting system
- Columbia student IT initiatives – open evaluations – Columbia app
 - Research Match Website

Move to New CourseWorks (CUIT)

- Transition: Fall '11 – Spring '13
 - Past courses' information will still be available
- New functionality, e.g. – Gradebook integrated with SSOL – integration with library reserves – better customizability
 - Better support for collaboration and communication
- Training workshops, downloadable guide, videos, FAQs

New email provider

- Google and Microsoft considered: Google wins
 - Many Google apps considered: email and calendar essential
 - Block advertising apps
- Issues: privacy, liability, accessibility, HIPAA compliance
- Multiphase migration begins Spring 2013

Cloud computing (Roxana Geambasu, Professor of Computer Science)

- Computing paradigm in which data and/or computation is outsourced to a third-party massive-scale, multi-user provider on a pay-per-use basis.
- Examples: Amazon AWS, Google AppEngine, Microsoft Azure,...
- Issues:
 - How easy to use?
 - How many applications supported?
 - Cost for storage
 - Cost for data access
- Should Columbia move to the cloud?
- Should individual researchers move to the cloud?

Data reproducibility issues (Victoria Stodden, Assistant Professor of Statistics)

- **Serious problem:**
 - Researchers describe results but rarely provide data and code that produced them – How can fraud be detected?
- Funding agencies and journals concerned – NIH and National Cancer Institute recommending open code
 - NSF requires Data Management Plan – *Science* requires code submission
- What should Columbia do?
 - Provide more support for researchers
 - University of Michigan provides technology guidance, access to computational infrastructure, and support
 - CU’s Research Computing Executive Committee and a Shared Research Computing Policy Advisory Committee (SRCPA), chaired by David Madigan (Statistics), to address
- Digital Humanities and Social Sciences Initiative
- New collaboration between History, English, Comparative Literature, Economics, Computer Science, Statistics, ISERP, SIPA, Mailman, QMSS
- Current activities:
 - University Seminar on Big Data and Digital Scholarship, 2012
 - Heyman Seminar, 2012 – Possible master’s program

Data Governance Update: ARC

- Single point of entry for all financial reporting and aid
 - Replaces AP/CAR and DARTS
 - Links directly to PeopleSoft
- New reporting capabilities: more flexibility in customizing reports
- Training challenges

Columbia App (Wei Yao, Teachers College student)

- Links to
 - Campus events
 - Calendar
 - CLIO mobile app (permits library search, book renewal)
 - Alerts for free food on campus
 - Campus phone numbers
- Users can submit news items (moderated)
- Columbia history information
- Available from Apple Store

Research Match website (Rebecca Sealfon, SEAS graduate) at www.ResearchMatch.ch

- Matches professors with research projects with students who want to work on them
- Launched March 2012