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](http://www.ResearchMatch.ch)
- Matches professors with research projects with students who want to work on them
- Launched March 2012