**DCO Forum**

Notes from meeting held on 13 November 2018

**Present:**

Andrew Male, IT Services

Laurence Abbott, Chemistry

Gavin Atkinson, IT Services

Steve Austin, IT Services

Phil Bainbridge, Information Services

Emma Barnes, IT Services

Howard Cambridge, SEI

Eleanor Coultish, IT Services

Zoe Devlin, Student & Academic Services

Siobhan Dunlop, Information Services

Mike Dunn, Information Services

Richard Fuller, IT Services

Neil Gevaux, Archaeology

Martin Godwin, Health & Safety

Simon Hart, IT Services/Physics

Edward Higgins, IT Services/Physics

David Hull, Computer Science

Maria Hyde, Health Sciences

Vaughan Jenkins, IT Services

Ian Jennings, IT Services/Biology

Richard John, Chemistry

Huw Jones, Language and Linguistic Science

Robert Kiss, HR

Jo Loftus, IT Services

Andy Paterson, Electronic Engineering

Gemma Marshall, SRA

John Mason, IT Services

David Nelmes, IT Services/Biology

Sarah Peace, IT Services

Matthew Pickin, IT Services/Physics

Suzanne Price, IT Services

David Pugh, Chemistry

Richard Scott, Health Sciences

Geoff Short, IT Services

Max Spicer, IT Services

Philip Stewart, AV

Richard Stoddart, IT Services

Eric Swales, York Management School

David Turley, Psychology

Garry Turner, Psychology

Dean Welbourn, IT Services/Computer Science

Adrian Whitwood, Chemistry

Vicky Wilkie, IT Services

**18-19/1 Minutes of previous meeting held on 19 September 2018 and matters arising**

The minutes were accepted. No matters arising.

**18-19/2 DCO Forum representative on IT Committee**

After representing DCO Forum on IT Committee for the past few years, Neil Gevaux expressed a wish to step down due to other commitments. Neil reported that he had thoroughly enjoyed being part of the committee and expressed his regret that he was unable to continue.

The Forum was asked for a DCO (who should not be a member of IT Services) to take on the role and Martyn Godwin volunteered. Neil was thanked for his work in carrying out the role to date.

**18-19/3 General update on IT matters**

* It is intended that Slack will be rolled out to all Professional Service departments in the University. The process is currently being automated and there will be an announcement when the service is ready to be rolled out. Staff will be encouraged to look at it and use it; initially (from January 2019) people will have to request access so that take-up and usage can be monitored.
* Cambridge Analytica is being investigated by the Information Commissioner’s Office. Cambridge Analytica came out of Cambridge University and the investigation has revealed a long list of issues relevant to all universities in the country. These relate especially to unmanaged devices and DCOs are therefore asked to continue to push devices down the managed route.
* Since GDPR went live, there have been 16,000 breach notifications including one from HYMS relating to testing and access control. No enforcement action was taken because the breach was fixed quickly and did not have a large impact. In response, the University has committed to having checklists for testing. DCOs should ensure they have a detailed change management plan for all changes.
* IT Services has completed the multifunction device rollout and now needs to complete the rollout of single function devices. Tom Borgia has contacted most of those involved, but anyone not yet contacted is asked to get in touch with Tom or Sarah Peace. It is hoped that the software for individual printers can be switched off in January 2019.
* The University has passed the stage 1 audit for certifying the secure data haven. Stage 2 is coming up in December; if this is successful the facility will be certified.

**18-19/4 Java licensing**

Arthur Clune gave a [presentation on the forthcoming major changes relating to Java licensing](https://wiki.york.ac.uk/download/attachments/71435131/Java%20and%20Oracle.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1542116137000&api=v2). From 31 January 2019, Java 8 will only be supported with paid-for support for ‘commercial use’. Upgrading would be considerably expensive at £220K to £250K per year just for the central cluster and users, with no academic discount. Current thinking is that the University is not going to pay but this would create a lot of work. Using old versions poses a security risk.

We are contacting suppliers of software installed on the managed desktop to ask them what their plans are. Departments who teach using Java will need to test against OpenJDK. We will evaluate alternative Java versions to try to get longer support.

If DCOs are aware of people in departments who use Java, they are asked to contact Arthur Clune for advice. The changes will also have implications for other databases. Any requests for Oracle databases from now onwards will go to Arthur and he will point the requestor towards postgres, unless they have a very good reason for using Oracle.

**18-19/5 Laptop encryption**

Sarah Peace gave a presentation on [laptop encryption](https://wiki.york.ac.uk/download/attachments/154811325/Laptop%20encryption.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1542116873000&api=v2). Managed laptops should have Win10 and be encrypted, but some have Bitlocker disabled. DPS are working to resolve devices with outstanding issues and will also complete a wider policy piece of work on building managed laptops and encryption. We hope to eventually reach a state when every laptop in the University is encrypted, although this will take a while. To help work towards this, DCOs are asked to encourage people to buy recommended Lenovo laptops, preferably from Getech. IT Services is talking to Procurement about preventing people from buying other laptops and several models have already been removed from YEP. Sarah or Richard Stoddart can provide further information if needed.

**18-19/6 HPC update and demo**

Emma Barnes gave an [update on the new HPC cluster](https://wiki.york.ac.uk/download/attachments/154811325/DCO%20forum%2013Nov18%20-%20%20new%20YARCC%20update.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1542116890000&api=v2), Viking. The University had allocated a £2.5 million budget for the cluster, which has now been officially handed over and is up and running. We are hoping to get test users onto it this week and are aiming for a soft launch in December. We have purchased a service contract with Alces for the first year, which might continue if successful.

The cluster has been set up to use University of York authentication and is managed via Alces Flightcenter. In case of disaster we can rebuild the service in the cloud or in another data centre.

**18-19/7 Overview of updated Google training**

Siobhan Dunlop [outlined the new training and support](https://wiki.york.ac.uk/download/attachments/154811325/Google%20training%202018-19.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1542116915000&api=v2) on offer from the Information Services Teaching and Learning Team. New courses are scheduled on Introduction to Google Apps; Drive and Team Drive; and Forms and Sheets; these are bookable via the LMS. Digital Wednesdays sessions are open to all in the University including students. Other training sessions are available on request, and a range of online support can be found, including a new IT Essentials guide.

**18-19/8 Google tips and tricks**

Before the meeting, Andrew Male had asked DCOs to suggest tips and tricks for using Google; [three were suggested](https://docs.google.com/document/d/108QSkSdk7R_o4We-P69v5fnMlDU8BKGKIengybnaRdo/edit).

It was agreed that this item was useful and would be kept on the agenda for future meetings. Members could stand up and share their ideas themselves if they wished, or simply continue to submit them via the [Google form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIfcoqJotnvLkxPapc3bLpijlri61KvAoApinH8CLVkfw5Xg/viewform) so that the chair could present them. No preparation is necessary and the subject level could range from very simple to more complex. Rob Stone undertook to introduce a more complex topic at the next meeting **(Action: Rob Stone)**.

**18-19/9 Over to you - news, issues or examples of best practice from departments**

Nothing raised.

**18-19/10 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 22 January 2019.