FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Annual Report for Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Faculty Representative: Kevin Dunayer CVPA & CEHD

Meeting Dates & Times: First Thursday of each month from 10:30am-12pm

Organizational Charge and Meeting Information

The Systems Administrator Leadership Team (SALT) provides a forum open to all Mason system administrators. A system administrator is defined as the one responsible for the maintenance and configuration of one or more computer servers. The meetings provide an opportunity for System Administrators to share their ideas, expertise, best practices, and socialize to build a stronger technical and security conscientious community.

During the academic year I attended SALT Meetings Via Zoom and Teams. The meetings had an agenda presented by members of the ITS Team. Each meeting also included a section on current threats that the GMU Community should be aware of or that might impact System Administrators. Below were topics discussed and announcements made throughout the year:

October 2021: Tenant Mergers and how this might affect end users. An update on the continued work on In Tune. Archer Update as well as updates regarding Vulnerability for Managing Servers

November 2021: Continued discussions of the Tenant Merger and how the closeout would be achieved. Continued work and update on Archer. New topics discussed included Microsoft Road Mapping, Apple's M-1 Chip Update, Retirement of Docushare and Telecom Replacement, Changes to Umbrella on Managed Macs and Standard Practices/ Procedures for systems moving forward.

December 2021: There was not any continued discussions from the previous meetings. New Topics introduced included Free Cloud Resources and ASRB Approved Software. Additionally, Role Based training was discussed.

SALT Does not typically have a January Meeting and there was not one this academic year

February 2022: There was not any continued discussion from previous meetings. New topics included Log4 and How Ransomware Can Be Delivered, Safe Links and Safe Attachments. Additionally, there was a discussion and presentation on Key Processes/Procedures for Deprovisioning.

       _March 2022__:_ The meeting opened with an Update on Third Party Software and Reminders/Updates on IT Security Trainings. New topics included AVE Point Procedures and how they will be implemented.

       _April 2022__:_ The meeting began with a discussion and announcements regarding 2FA and Blackboard. New topics included New Network Connectivity with Managed Macs, Plans for Upcoming Changes for Purchasing and information regarding restructuring and reorganization of ITS. One Threat of note to discuss was possible Russian Cyber Attacks.

Conclusions and Observations

The SALT Team is an excellent forum for information on projects, procedures, and initiatives that the ITS Community will implement or move forward for implementation. Another added benefit for the Faculty Senate Representative is inclusion on the ITS List Serve. The List Serve produces weekly announcements of service interruptions, and projects that may impact the Mason Community.

In looking at what this this particular forum is not designed well for is feedback or inclusion in the decision-making process for ITS Initiatives or future projects. Since the meetings have regular attendance of large amounts of representation it makes it difficult to ask specific questions. One suggestion I would make would be for the SALT Team to allow for a session once a year for members to voice concerns, make operational suggestions and have true discussions of all work that ITS does that may have an impact on the Mason Community.