Welcome to 2021!

We will be scheduling a meeting for later this month to discuss a number of items that we have been talking about the past few months.

The report to Executive Council by Dr. Russ Jones and Dr. Blake Bedsole went well and there will be some conversations around Software Procurement Processes and how this committee interacts with those processes as we progress into 21/22.

The Executive Council approved the proposal to change the delivery of Banner from on Premise Hardware to the Ellucian Cloud effective December 31 2020. This move will save the University approximately 85K per year over 5 years and dramatically improve our ERP disaster recovery posture moving forward. It will also align our Banner Applications with what we use.

The project start is scheduled for February 1st 2021 and will take approximately 9 - 12 months for full transfer into the cloud environment.

We will review the details at our next meeting.

There has been a little more Cares Act money identified for use by May 2021. At this time we will be attempting to get reimbursed for the monies we have spent from AFTELE (Telecommunications) and AACOSV (OIS) on the purchases and monthly expenditures of the Hotspots the University purchased for the Faculty, Staff and Students.

The Controllers Office/Administration and Finance settled on a GASBY compliance package for reporting on Leases/contracts with LeaseQuery the first year costs $26,928.46 This package is to meet federal and state compliance on tracking University wide leases and contracts.

21/22 budgeting, as you know, is still and ongoing discussion and committees have been formed to review and comment on the University budgets. The Technology Budgets will continue to be in review as these are completed and Budget Advisory, the Executive Council, the President and the University Board review the 5 year plan that comes from these discussions.

Our contract with Windstream Phone Services is effectively up December 2020 and the system is at end of life. They are agreeing to support the system until December 2021 and we must be off that system by then. We will need to move rapidly this year to move the last 300 phones over to VOIP and to identify a solution for the 5 lines per building and the 50+ emergency phones to either move to VOIP as well or an alternative analog phone service for those lines.

We have been making progress on the Fiber replacement across the University (Russellville) to create a redundant fiber loop around the campus and thus remove risks of having buildings providing in-out for connectivity and causing rerouting of connectivity due to building changes.

Again, welcome to 2021 and the opportunities it should bring.

Ken