October 29th, 2014
1:00 – 2:00 pm, ST501

Minutes

Present: Anna Valeva, Bree McEwan, Kimberly Hartweg, Justin Ehrlich, Johnathan Day, Abha Singh, Chris Carpenter, Sharon Stevens, George Johnson, George Mangalaraj, Bruce Walters,

Google can change the terms of the contract at any time, but must give over a years notice that they will be making those changes. Then the University would have the option to go with the new terms – or look for alternatives.

There were concerns expressed that once Google got us hooked, they could then add costs up the road. Although WIU would have opportunities to pull out of Google Apps for Education if problems developed (privacy issues, added costs, etc.) it would be hard to then return to non-cloud based applications once the server infrastructure for email applications like Zimbra had been taken down.

A list of some of the universities already using Google Apps for Education was circulated.

It was brought up that many K-12 institutions are using Google Apps for Education. So many incoming student would be familiar with these applications.   It was also brought up that some K-12 schools are instead using MS Office 365.

Many students, faculty, and staff are already using gmail. Several CIT members talked positively about their own use of gmail – and their positive experiences from being at institutions where gmail was used.

ECOM authentication could be incorporated into Google Apps for Education. WIU would still control authentication of users.

Students, faculty and staff would have an email address for life. However, certain aspects of data would not go with those graduating and/or leaving the University.

Adopting Google Apps would not change the availability status of current Microsoft Office applications.

Use of Google Apps for Educations other features besides gmail were discussed as potential positives for the classroom by those wishing to make use of those applications. It was again pointed out that MS Office products would still be available. For example, one would still be able to use MS Excel rather than Google's spreadsheet application if they chose to