

**Dean's Faculty Advisory Council  
University of Tennessee, College of Medicine**

December 5, 2022

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Mace Coday, at 12:03 PM on December 5, 2022, in person and on the Zoom online platform.

**Attendance**

The following members were present:

Suleiman W. Bahouth, PhD, Mark Bugnitz, MD, Mace Coday, PhD, Julio F. Cordero-Morales, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Ian Gray, MD, Chris Ledbetter, MD, Patrick McConville, MD, James McLoughlin, MD, F. Matthew Mihelic, MD, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Reese Scroggs, PhD, Burt Sharp, MD, Laura Sprabery, MD, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C, Jillian McCarthy, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

The following guest(s) was (were) present:

Dan Harder, MS, Scott Strome, MD, Alicia Diaz Thomas, MD, Andrea Malkin, JD

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means.

**Business**

Dan Harder, MS, UTHSC's Chief Information Officer, was invited to respond to some questions regarding security software UTHSC has installed on virtually all computers, laptops, notepads etc. On Windows machines there is an "acceptable use" policy to which the user must agree, to sign on. Also, including on Apple computers on the "lock screen," viewers see a notification regarding remote monitoring. DFAC members had expressed questions regarding what, exactly, this sort of remote management or monitoring is. Questions concerned what triggers remote management, what sort of monitoring is occurring with or without the user's knowledge, what sorts of things might be kept long-term. It was suggested that any purchaser should be advised, in advance of the purchase, regarding this information, so that informed decisions can be made.

Mr. Harder provided extensive clarification, indicating that the software in question does not permit UTHSC to view or supervise the content of users' work or substantive data, but rather is used only for security and software update purposes. More specifically, the software (JAMF) placed on Apple products permits pushing updates, patches, etc, and includes a capacity to stop all use of the device if it is stolen. A functionally identical software (SCCM) is placed on PCs. UTHSC has seen numerous thefts of equipment, e.g. through car break-ins, airport thefts and the like.

DFAC members posed a number of additional questions.

Q: If someone brings his/her own computer (eg laptop, iPad etc) to UT and uses Eduroam, is there any such surveillance? Would it actually be possible?

A: Nothing is installed on non-UTHSC devices. That said, the IP address on the computer logs every website anyone visits, whether it is the UTHSC network or not.

Q: What about devices already in use prior to this policy's enactment; has or will UT remotely place such software into effect.

A: UTHSC has done an asset inventory of every asset on campus during the past year. The SCCM was installed on every PC that could be found, and JAMF on every Apple endpoint that was found.

Q: Can UTHSC's IT catch "strange" activity?

A: Yes. Example: just before Thanksgiving, someone downloaded a file that could have connected every device on the network. It was seen and stopped, cutting that machine off of the network. Likely this resulted from a compromised password. The server security team has 8 people, of whom 2 are full-time, to stop these attacks. As Mr. Harder noted, the software is to protect, not to police. They focus on intrusion protection, not the content of what people do while on a UTHSC device.

Q: What about when devices are off-campus? eg on another VPN/virtual private network?

A: When someone is off-campus, UTHSC cannot see the locations of the user's visits. However, any UT-installed anti-virus etc software is still there and operational. Any machine on the network is always logged

Q: Under what circumstances might UT consider compiling all the visits by someone/a device and release them to any authorities.

A: Any request would come only via in-house legal counsel and/or an internal audit. On one occasion FBI, Homeland Security made such a request - - the only one time in the past several years - - because someone had been visiting terrorist sites.

Q: Under ordinary conditions, every email in UT is presumptively a public document of TN and can potentially be made public via TN's Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. A request always goes to Legal Counsel. They weigh in on whether to release the information or not. If it is a patient-related conversation, e.g., it will not be released. That said, if a user intends to undertake a protected conversation, e.g. about a patient, the communication should state "Confidential" or otherwise flagged. It was also noted that if a UTHSC person engaging in confidential communication should be careful not to send it, e.g., to someone's Gmail account.

A: UTHSC's software is not capable of actually changing any of the files within one's device.

Q: A further question concerned whether there is a relationship between Apple and JAMF, and Microsoft and SCCM.

A: There is no relationship with these corporations that would be able to give them data, but the JAMF and SCCM software does become part of the operating system. That said, Mr. Harder indicated

that he was he was uncertain about the exact operational capabilities of the Apple software that UT security uses in coordination with Apple. He planned to look into this.

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Dean Strome then provided an update for the CoM. The PA/Physicians' Assistant program, with 60 students, has had a recent site visit. We expect to hear the results around this summer.

We are working on several recruits for various positions. For Anesthesiology, 2 finalists are coming this week; in Pathology, 4 excellent finalists are being considered. Neuroanatomy and neurobiology, and MIB, had been flagged for some attention. With a goal of revitalizing these, a position of Neuroscience Institute Director is being created and recruited. We continue to build an academic medical center at Regional One. We are also now investing in endowed chairs, the first inductee of which was welcomed last Friday. We expect to do this roughly twice per year.

Community outreach continues as we build several more HealthHubs, to reach those who need us most.

Like many other institutions, UTHSC's CoM faces some concerns about "administrative bloat," with worries about whether we should be investing more in researchers. In response, Dr. Strome noted that the money covering faculty salaries mostly comes from clinical work. Gone are the days when clinical work only needed to support 20% of salaries. It will be difficult to engage in more clinical research unless and until we have our own academic medical center/hospital.

Regarding the efforts toward tenure extension, Dr. Terry Cooper reported that, after DFAC voted in support of some sort of extension, Drs. Cooper and Strome met with Cindy Russell, Vice Chancellor for Academics/Chief Academic Officer. She had not been previously aware of the many other institutions that have broader options for extending the tenure window. The meeting was purely informational, and once the CAO has had the opportunity to review the information provided, additional conversations will be undertaken. It was noted that the DFAC vote in October 2022 was not in support of any specific tenure extension policy, but rather was simply in favor of the very idea that some sort of extension policy would be desirable.

Pres. Coday reminded DFAC members that APPR documents are due on January 15, 2023.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the committee will be held on January 9, 2023, at 12:00n CT / 1pm ET by Zoom and in person in room 502, 910 Madison building.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD  
Secretary