

Dec 5th, 2022

To: Faculty Senate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm Eric Lyons and I am a professor in the school of Plant Sciences with adjunct appointments in the School of Information and Biosystems Engineering. I am also the lead PI of CyVerse, a \$115M 15 year project funded by the National Science Foundation. Through CyVerse, an additional \$70M - \$80M of research awards have been brought to UArizona from nearly all major US federal agencies.

I need to ring the alarm on UA's CIO Barry Brummand's mandate to centralize nearly all computing under his office. This mandate was announced in Oct. of this year that touches EVERY part of the University: UITS will install management software on your laptops and desktops and nearly all research servers will be decommissioned and moved to Amazon. As faculty, will have to cover these costs and for a project like CyVerse, this will result in a \$9-\$12M annual bill, effectively killing this project.

Importantly, there are no exceptions and these costs will result in projects being unable to deliver on their contractual obligations, absolutely destroy our competitive edge in getting new research awards in the future, increase the likelihood that high-profile and successful professors at UA will leave for other Universities, and decrease our ability to recruit new research talent in the future.

This mandate has happened without any **faculty input** or any risk analysis. Of particular concern is the timeline mandated by CIO Brummand, which requires all units on campus to submit plans by Feb 2023 with full implementation by Jun, 2025. Our IT staff are excellent, and Brummand has not provided any plans or guidance to his staff. In fact, senior UITS leadership is currently hiring people to fill critical roles for this project as we speak. They are literally trying to build the plane while flying. Brummand defends his plan by stating that this mandate is coming from ABOR, however the most recent ABOR meeting notes make no mention of it.

Given the scale of the proposed mandate, the incredibly insane timeline, and the impact it will have on university operations, research, and teaching, I am requesting that the Faculty Senate investigate this immediately. This mandate affects all of us and CIO Barry Brummand has not been transparent and has not included faculty representation in any stage of this process.

Thank you.



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