Conference Call Minutes, 2010-05-27

ITANA Meeting Minutes - 27 May 2010

Attending
Jim Phelps, University of Wisconsin-Madison (chair)
Geoffrey Boushey, University of California, Berkeley
Mike Daley, University of Michigan
Keith Hazelton, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Joe Lauer, University of Michigan
Todd Piket, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
David Purcell, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Steve Olshansky, Internet2
Rich Stevenson, University of Maryland
Ann West, Internet2
Ann Kitalong-Will, Internet2 (scribe)

Action Items

(AI) - Jim - will ping list for those who have been to other conferences, and will plan agenda items for future calls to discuss those conferences, similar to the Gartner EA Summit discussion.

(AI) - Jim will follow-up with Ann West and AACRAO to decide status of Student Lifecycle Summit.

(AI) - Jim - will ping list for other campuses doing ESB for the Screen-2-Screen.

(AI) - Jim - will either find alternate to lead the next call in his absence, or, alternatively, will keep the time slot open for subgroups to use the phone bridge.

(AI) - All - contact Jim with any feedback on the AACRAO F2F.

June 10th Call

Jim has a conflict for the June 10th call, but will leave the time slot open.

(AI) - Jim - will either find alternate to lead the next call in his absence, or, alternatively, will keep the time slot open for subgroups to use the phone bridge.

Action Item Updates

Student Lifecycle Summit - the call for participation has been sent out.

Round Robin Summary - has been posted to the Topics of Interest page, and can be viewed here: https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/itana/Topics+of+Interest

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Gartner EA Summit (Mike Daley)

The theme for the Gartner summit was a run-grow-transform method in terms of classifying EA projects: looking at projects to keep business running, to grow business, and to transform business. The conference reflected the EA trade's work to bridge the gap between analytical and intuitive approaches: exploration versus/in addition to data-driven decision making.

Mike suggests teaming up with somebody else at these summits to be able to attend a wider range of sessions.

Higher education EAs were not well-represented at the conference.

Some of the sessions Mike attended:

1. *Design Thinking* - Focused on EAs as individuals who are more analytically minded and who make data-driven decisions whereas those individuals who are more business-minded think intuitively (they explore rather than require hard data). The session focused on the need for the EA community to bridge that gap, people-focused decision making rather than strictly data-driven.
2. *Innovating Your Way to Competitive Advantage* - Expanded on the Design Thinking methodology by discussing "management 2.0," management changing from traditional top-down hierarchies to more cellular structures (e.g. Google uses teams of 3-5 individuals; Goretex keeps companies' employees to no more than 200). The approach emphasizes value-centric/human-centric, and emphasizes that the changes to the ways people work is going to affect the ways EAs work.
3. *Visualization* - As EAs, we focus on artifacts; this session focused on the need for EAs to develop visualization skills in communication as a way to create a picture for non-technical colleagues so they can better understand what is going on in the EA environment.
4. *Effective Governance* - Focused on the need for IT to understand and become more embedded in business strategy, investment. Discussed the differences between EA governance and IT governance: EA is strategic; IT is generally more operational in nature.
5. *Key Skills EAs Need* - A round table discussion focusing on what EAs should be concentrating on in the near future. In addition to EAs' technical skills, these key skills include:
   - "soft" skills (collaboration, facilitation, leadership, negotiation)
   - business skills (financial, MBA mindset, ability to speak "business language")
   - design/visualization/artistic skills

Open Discussion - Points to Consider:

- Establishing standards for EA governance is the easy part; the more difficult part is to establish buy-in to those standards.
- EA matures out of an organization, it's not necessarily a program that gets implemented
- If there are no standards, is there then no architectural review board?
- EA needs to be in the process from the beginning, when problems are being defined. Bridge building is important to the EA group being plugged in early in the process instead of waiting until the point that the unit is under an architectural review board.
- EA groups tend to know what the big projects are, but the smaller projects aren't always brought to our attention and they can have a large impact. (e.g. registrars building a CRM for potential students)

(AI) - Jim - will ping list for those who have been to other conferences, and will plan agenda items for future calls to discuss those conferences, similar to the Gartner EA Summit discussion.

AACRAO Tech Student Lifecycle Summit

No responses were received from the call for participation. At this point, the plan needs to be either dropped or a strategy needs to be decided on to get more participation.

Open discussion:

- Several of the ITANA members are interested, but either don't have time or don't have travel funds to attend.
- Several of those on the call don't have a relationship with their RO.

It was suggested that it might be best to cancel this year's Summit, and focus on building relationships with ROs over the next year. A Screen-2-Screen series of sessions may be a good way to reach out to ROs on campuses.

One concern: the ITANA track this year could make a good first impression. There are many ROs who are interested, and who may be open to phone call outreach this year to help mobilize the registrars.

(AI) - Jim - will follow-up with Ann West and AACRAO to decide status of Student Lifecycle Summit.

(AI) - All - contact Jim with any feedback on the AACRAO F2F.

Round Robin Discussion

There were several trends identified, including:

- Oracle IDM suite
- Affiliation management
- Rolling out enterprise services to support SOA initiatives
- Strategic planning
- Building EA practice on campuses

(AI) - Jim - will ping list for other campuses doing ESB for the Screen-2-Screen.

The full notes are posted on the Topics of Interest wiki page: https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/itana/Topics+of+Interest

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Next Meeting - June 10, 2010
2 p.m. EDT / 1 p.m. CDT / noon MDT / 11 a.m. PDT

Note: Jim is not available for the June 10th meeting, but will attempt to identify someone to lead the meeting; alternatively, he will keep the line available for subgroups to discuss their work.

The following meeting will be on June 24, 2010.