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TO: All NMSU Employees

FROM: Dan Arvizu, Chancellor
John Floros, President

SUBJECT: NMSU Data Governance Program

Data governance is the overall management of the availability, usability, integrity and security of data used in an enterprise. Representatives from the Privacy Technical Assistance Center from the U.S. Department of Education recently visited our campus and performed a readiness assessment of NMSU's data management practices. The main recommendation from the assessment related to the establishment of a comprehensive data governance program across the NMSU system with executive sponsorship.

Data Governance aligns finely with Goal 4 of the NMSU LEADS 2025 Strategic Plan of building a robust NMSU system. Thus, a data governance program will be established and sponsored by the Chancellor and President to ensure NMSU properly handles data across the system and obtains optimal value from both its information technology resources and data. Some of the core benefits of data governance will result in:

- Enabling data-driven decision making
- Data quality and reliability
- Efficient and timely access to data
- Protection of data according to its sensitivity
- Balance between realizing benefits, optimizing risk levels, and resource.

The establishment of the data governance program will be led by Carlos Lobato, NMSU's chief data privacy and IT compliance officer. Carlos will work closely with the Chief Information Officer and the Chief Information Security Officer and will report to the new Strategic Chief Financial Officer, Ruth Johnston, to strengthen IT compliance and privacy across the NMSU system.

Carlos will soon work and communicate with NMSU officials responsible for major operating units and will establish a committee of Data Trustees, Data Stewards and a data governance working group. A data governance website will keep the NMSU community apprised of progress as will regular update at the University Administrative Council. In the meantime, please refer to the attached for an Executive Briefing about Data Governance and cooperate with Carlos on this initiative.

attachment

NMSU's Data Governance Program

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July 19, 2019

Executive Briefing

Overview:

In the conduct of its business, NMSU is entrusted with a lot of sensitive information and therefore required to comply with various data regulatory requirements such as FERPA, GLBA, FISMA, and other contractual agreements such as the Program Participation Agreement (PPA) with the U.S. Department of Education and grants & contracts. A comprehensive data governance program helps to demonstrate compliance with these regulations, but more importantly will enable NMSU's executive management, faculty and staff to make data driven decision making on data that is reliable and of good quality.

Data Governance:

According to a recent Data Governance Readiness Assessment by the U.S. Department of Education, establishing a comprehensive data governance program will help to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the data by reducing data security risks due to unauthorized access or misuse of data. Specifying policies, procedures, and responsibilities regarding data ownership and data-related activities will help NMSU to minimize any detrimental outcomes in the event of a data breach. The establishment of a data governance program with executive sponsorship was one of the main recommendations.

Value of Data:

To ensure NMSU obtains optimal value from both its information technology resources and the entirety of its data while maintaining a balance between realizing benefits, optimizing risk levels and resource use, a formal program must be in place to ensure proper handling of data across the entire NMSU system. Some of the core benefits of data governance will result in:

- Enabling data-driven decision making
- Data quality and reliability
- Efficient access to data
- Protection of data according to its sensitivity

Program Implementation Phases:

- Executive Management Sponsorship (Chancellor and President) – send communication
- Define roles & responsibilities (Data trustees, data stewards and core team) – Policy
- Establishing milestones and providing regular progress reports and communications to UAC
- Perform a Data Inventory across the NMSU system
- Classify Data according to its sensitivity… (public, internal, regulated or government-owned)
- Identity and Access Management
    - Re-analyze existing system access to Banner, Cognos, audit logs, etc.
- Establish Data Standards, etc.

Note: The most critical elements of the program are Executive buy-in, data inventories and data classification. It should also be noted that various Data Governance programs from other Universities have been studied and best practices from EDUCAUSE and ACUA consulted.

NMSU Data Governance Spectrum

Directory Information Website Content	Building Plans Management Docs Internal Audit Reports	Student Records HR Data Medical Records	Research Information CUI Contract/DOD Classified
Public Data	Internal	Entrusted Regulated Data	Government Owned

Compliance & Risk