Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Attending: Tom B, Lucy L, Judith B, David W, Craig L

Regrets: Laura P, Alan B, Dedra C

Agenda:
1. Continue discussion of Craig’s Material for REFEDS Fed 20 Report
2. Review revisions to what we’re now calling the Academic Interfederation Circa 2021 section of the report.
3. Other thoughts WG members have about items in the consultation worksheet.
4. AOB

WG members continued discussing Craig’s material:
- Do we say we are in the collaboration business? Yes
- Broadly disruption clearly represented? It is in the scenarios. Maybe more?
- Looking at the other parts of the material: are they threats?
- Similar to the internet per se, A-I still needs to
  - broaden access to it
  - keep it open and privacy preserving, suited to the Academy, by not allowing it to be taken over or superseded by organisations whose interests undermine those principles.
- Reasons to improve ability to execute and manage change:
  - Internal: valuable changes aren’t implemented in a deterministic time frame, and that sucks for RPs. So let’s fix that.
  - External: Ability to adapt in the face of disruptive threats also depends on ability to execute and manage change.
- Craig will look for ways to incorporate some of his ideas into the report.

Tom aired the prospect of adding another subsection to the “Circa 2021” section that addresses things that A-I doesn’t currently do but could, in an incremental evolutionary way, and that have been identified by the A-I community already. Some of Craig’s material would go there, possibly
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with other examples along those lines. There was no consensus on whether such a section should be added.

Next steps for WG members are to review the consultation worksheet to note which things we set out to reflect in the report have not been done, whether there’s anything we should do differently in response to the feedback that we didn’t already think of, and to add a column in which to draft public “action/decision” statements.