Information Technology Report

July 17, 2026

Agenda Item #1: Information Technology Update Report

☒ Information ☐ Action ☐ Discussion

Purpose:

To provide an update on recent Information Technology initiatives, enterprise system enhancements, infrastructure improvements, and operational activities that support the university's academic, administrative, and strategic priorities.

Background:

Information Technology continues to support the university's daily operations while advancing initiatives that improve enterprise systems, campus infrastructure, and operational efficiency. During this reporting period, efforts focused on modernizing administrative systems, preparing for fiscal year-end, completing infrastructure improvements, and supporting technology needs across campus.

Recent Highlights:

Enterprise Systems & Administrative Improvements

Information Technology continued to modernize and enhance the university's enterprise systems through upgrades to Banner Self-Service, Financial Aid, and supporting applications. Staff completed required fiscal year-end preparations to ensure a smooth transition into FY27 while improving the reliability and efficiency of core administrative processes.

The team also continued work to modernize administrative workflows by advancing the implementation of Ellucian Intelligent Processes (EIP) and Person Manager, which will replace legacy Action Items with a more efficient and sustainable solution. IT also partnered with Human Resources and Strata Information Group (SIG) during a multi-day business process review to identify opportunities to streamline HR workflows, improve operational efficiency, and maximize the university's use of Banner. Additional improvements to reporting, database performance, and application reliability strengthened data accuracy and system responsiveness across multiple campus departments.

Infrastructure & Campus Technology

IT completed several infrastructure projects supporting campus operations, including network wiring in Cisler for Limestone Financial Credit Union, preparation of technology spaces in Norris Center ahead of renovation activities, deployment of new point-of-sale hardware, and firmware updates across the university's network infrastructure. Staff also completed numerous maintenance and optimization projects that improved system performance, reliability, and long-term sustainability.

Support for Campus Operations

IT continued supporting academic and administrative departments through a variety of operational initiatives. This included implementing upgraded streaming hardware for the Fishcam, providing technical support and temporary technology solutions for the Arts Center, improving communications within the Library, assisting with institutional reporting initiatives, and supporting campus technology needs associated with ongoing facilities projects.

Professional Development & Strategic Collaboration

IT staff continued to invest in professional development by participating in the Merit Member Conference, the Merit Board Meeting, and Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU) technology meetings. Staff also attended multiple professional development opportunities focused on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, ensuring the university remains informed of evolving technology trends, cybersecurity best practices, and innovative solutions that support higher education.

These efforts reflect Information Technology's continued commitment to providing reliable, secure, and sustainable technology services while supporting the university's strategic priorities through collaboration, continuous improvement, and responsible stewardship of technology resources.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President’s Recommendation:

N/A

Information Technology Report

July 17, 2026

Agenda Item #2: **Information Technology Security**

☒ Information ☐ Action ☐ Discussion

Purpose:
To provide an update on cybersecurity operations, recent security enhancements, and ongoing efforts to strengthen the university's security posture and reduce institutional risk.

Background:
Information Technology continues to enhance the university's cybersecurity program through proactive monitoring, vulnerability management, and collaboration with the Merit Security Operations Center (SOC). These efforts improve LSSU's ability to identify, investigate, and respond to potential threats while protecting institutional systems, data, and technology resources.

Recent Highlights:

Cybersecurity Operations

Cybersecurity operations remained stable throughout the reporting period. In partnership with the Merit Security Operations Center, Information Technology continued 24/7 monitoring of the university's technology environment. During June, Merit analyzed more than 14 terabytes of LSSU network traffic and over 8,000 security events, with no critical security alerts or new incidents requiring escalation identified during the reporting period.

Merit also continued proactive threat hunting and intelligence activities focused on emerging threats affecting higher education institutions. While Merit mitigated 30 distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks across participating organizations during June, none were directed at Lake Superior State University.

Security Enhancements

Information Technology completed several security improvements during the reporting period, including remediation of identified security vulnerabilities within Banner Self-Service, renewal of digital security certificates supporting campus systems, and implementation of the Fortinet Security Fabric across the university's security infrastructure. This integration enhances

communication between security platforms, improving visibility into potential threats and enabling faster, more coordinated response capabilities.

LSSU continues to receive a monthly executive cybersecurity report from the Merit Security Operations Center. The report summarizes monitoring activity, response metrics, threat trends, and the university's overall security posture and is provided as Attachment A – Merit Security Operations Center Monthly Executive Report for the Board's information.

Next Steps:

Information Technology will continue strengthening the university's cybersecurity posture through proactive monitoring, vulnerability management, system maintenance, and collaboration with Merit SOC and regional cybersecurity partners. Efforts will remain focused on improving the university's ability to detect, prevent, and respond to evolving cyber threats while maintaining secure and reliable technology services.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President’s Recommendation:

N/A

Information Technology Report

July 17, 2026

Agenda Item #3: Website Improvements Updates

☒ Information ☐ Action ☐ Discussion

Purpose:
To provide an update on website modernization initiatives, accessibility improvements, and ongoing efforts to enhance the university's digital presence, user experience, and recruitment efforts.

Background:
The university website remains one of LSSU's primary communication and recruitment tools. Current efforts continue to focus on platform modernization, accessibility, content quality, and user engagement while supporting the university's recruitment and communication goals.

Major Improvements:

- WordPress 7 Deployment**:** Successfully upgraded the university website to WordPress Version 7, representing the most significant platform modernization in more than a decade. The update introduces enhanced security, expanded accessibility features, built-in AI-assisted content creation and accessibility tools, improved collaboration capabilities, and a modernized content management experience.
- Accessibility Enhancements**:** Continued improvements to website accessibility and usability in preparation for updated federal accessibility requirements. New WordPress features further strengthen the university's long-term accessibility efforts while improving the overall user experience.

Ongoing Improvements:

- Content updates continue across multiple departments, including Regional Centers, Marketing, and organizational changes supporting the university's evolving college and school structure.
- Work has begun on a comprehensive redesign of the Advancement website.
- Audits of websites hosted through WP Engine continue to identify opportunities for content improvements, consolidation, and long-term optimization.
- Information Technology is evaluating future website hosting options to improve long-term performance, security, and sustainability.

Coming Soon:

- Completion of the Advancement website redesign.
- Continued accessibility enhancements and content modernization.
- Deployment of Light/Dark Mode functionality.
- Recommendations regarding future website hosting strategy.

Recent Site Performance (Last 60 Days):

- **21.5% decrease** in active users, consistent with the conclusion of the academic year.
- **49.3% increase** in average time per active user, indicating stronger engagement with website content.
- Visitors accessed the website from **165 countries**, demonstrating LSSU's global digital reach
- **Top Visited Pages:**
    - Homepage (56,271 views)
    - Directory (16,584 views)
    - Search (5,442 views)
    - Library (5,018 views)
    - Commencement (4,485)

- **Traffic Sources:**
    - 72,000 direct URL entries
    - 61,000 sessions from organic Google search
    - 3,800 referrals from other sites
    - 1,800 from social media

The university website continues to evolve as a modern, secure, and accessible digital resource. Ongoing platform enhancements, content improvements, and user experience initiatives support the university's communication, recruitment, and strategic goals.

Suggested Action/Motion:

N/A

President’s Recommendation:

N/A

Merit SOC Security Operations Monthly Report

Lake Superior State University | June 2026

Generated June 30, 2026

This report provides an overview of our cybersecurity operations over the past month, showcasing how we protect Lake Superior State University and provides insights into the broader cybersecurity landscape.

LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY	MERIT SOC
14.7 TB DATA INSPECTED	**1,075.5 TB** DATA INSPECTED
8,190 SECURITY EVENTS	**590,486,886** SECURITY EVENTS
5 ACTIVE ALERTS	**936** ACTIVE ALERTS
0 NEW MONTHLY ALERTS	**240** NEW MONTHLY ALERTS
0 CRITICAL ALERTS	**0** CRITICAL ALERTS

ACTIVE ALERTS BY TYPE

LAKE SUPERIOR STATE U...	TYPE	MERIT SOC
2	Sensitive Port	84
1	Open Vulnerability	289
1	Spyware	19
1	Network Exploit	480
0	External Report	2
0	Merit Darknet	4
0	Zero-Day Malware	6
0	Malware Sinkhole	25
0	Malware Honeypot	4
0	Phish Report	23

INCIDENT RESPONSE TIMES

Average	3.0 min
95th Percentile	3.6 min
Maximum	6.9 min

ALERT STATUS SUMMARY

Open Alerts	3
New (30 Days)	0
Resolved (30 Days)	0

OPEN ALERT SEVERITY

Low	0
Medium	3
High	0
Critical	0

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Events requiring attention have stayed minimal for the month of June at LSSU, with no network-generated alerts and several CrowdStrike generated alerts being generated and addressed. In total, the Merit SOC has inspected over 14TB of network data and 8,000 security events. Merit mitigated 30 DDoS attacks against all SOC subscribers, with none of them being directed at LSSU. Attack traffic and events are lower compared to prior months due to the summer season, and this is seen across all Merit SOC subscribers.

Merit SOC Security Operations Monthly Report

Lake Superior State University | June 2026

Generated June 30, 2026

NETWORK DENIAL OF SERVICE (DDOS) ATTACK MITIGATIONS

LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

0

Mitigations

MERIT SOC

30

Total Mitigations

TOP MITIGATIONS THIS MONTH

No events requiring mitigation occurred.

PROACTIVE THREAT HUNTING

THREAT HUNTING

255

Hours

WHAT WE FOUND

Threat hunting efforts for June have been focused on a combination of statistical traffic analysis and responding to new Iranian and Russian attack campaign artifacts. Traffic analysis has been able to observe over longer timeframes due to significantly increased data storage, and foreign attacker data has been sourced from DHS/CISA and other trusted sources.

CROWDSTRIKE EDR STATUS

969	74	6
Covered Endpoints	Cases Opened (30 days)	Cases Closed (30 days)

MERIT SOC CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ACTIONS

6	9	79	224
Detailed Attack Analyses	Malware Detonations	URL Detonations	Threat Intelligence Searches

GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY LANDSCAPE

PRIORITY KNOWN EXPLOITED VULNERABILITIES (KEVS)

97

New This Month

→

1,592

Total Active KEVs Globally

PRIORITY COMMON VULNERABILITIES & EXPOSURES (CVES)

1,328

New This Month

→

107,068

Total CVEs Globally

CURRENT THREAT LANDSCAPE

Higher education remains a top-tier target for cybercriminals heading into the back half of 2026, with ransomware groups jumping roughly 23% year-over-year against colleges and universities, averaging around $556,000 per ransom demand, and the vast majority of these incidents still tracing back to compromised credentials, phishing, or exploited vulnerabilities. The tactics are shifting, though: attackers are bypassing the "hostage" phase of attacks entirely and moing straight to extortion or public data leaks to pressure institutions reputationally. Generative AI is reshaping both sides of the fight, accelerating attacker phishing and impersonation campaigns while also creating internal exposure through ungoverned staff use of public AI tools on sensitive data. Compounding this, cyber insurers have tightened requirements significantly, expecting demonstrable MFA, documented incident response plans, and vendor risk assessments as a baseline rather than a formality.