

2/15/2017



To Whom It May Concern,

A committee of faculty and staff were asked to recommend a replacement system for the About.IllinoisState.edu website service. We have met and closely followed the request for a proposal process. In this, we established a list of needs and wants for such a system, evaluated four potential open-source solutions, and scored each against a common matrix.

We recommend that WordPress replace SharePoint for the purpose of faculty and small organization websites within the About.IllinoisState.edu service.

We recognize that reducing some of the standard features of WordPress will be necessary to ensure the security of the system. The committee recommends that technical staff evaluate the possibility that the “wp-admin” login page is changed from default, that blogging is turned off by default, and that comments on pages and blog posts is turned off by default.

We suggest that leadership, and possibly Legal Counsel, evaluate the need for a warning to be displayed when an About.IllinoisState.edu site takes a visitor away from the current site. Other institutions/websites do this to warn visitors that the information presented is not under the same control and that they are not responsible for the content.

We also recognize that this change would need to take effect for all users of the About.IllinoisState.edu system at the same time. We recommend that this be scheduled for early in the summer semester (May 2018) so that faculty will have more flexibility to update content, learn the new system, etc. This timing will also give technical staff time to manually rebuild SharePoint sites in WordPress before the system switches. With that, we suggest that a development environment be made available no later than Fall Semester 2017 in order to accommodate the time required to rebuild existing sites and provide appropriate training prior to the cutover.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Regilio
Committee Chair

Committee members: Rachel Bowden, Charles Bristow, Ryan Bunge, Lea Cline, Michael Gizzi, Matthew Gromer, Randy Hill, Alice Lee, Kate Plantholt, Rick Valentin, George Wiman