COE Research Computing Committee

MINUTES FEBRUARY 8, 2017

ATTENDEES

Present: Xiaofeng Liu (CEE); John Messner (AE); Adri vanDuin (MNE); Sumeet Gupta (EE); Serhat Aybat (IME); George Lesieutre (ADR); Jerry Ciolkosz (IT); Dan Haworth (ex officio); Greg Madden (Sr. Advisor)

Absent: Howard Salis (ABE); Conrad Tucker (SEDTAPP); Mike Janik (ChE); Pak Kin Wong (BME); Kamesh Madduri (CSE); Francesco Costanzo (ESM)

Discussion topics:

1. COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

1. Updated draft of by-laws was reviewed and adopted by unanimous vote.
2. Final draft of the plan will be distributed with the minutes. Membership list will be distributed with minutes.

CONCLUSIONS
Thank you to Dan for drafting the plan.

2. UPDATE

Greg Madden, Sr. Advisor for Research Computing and Cyber Infrastructure, discussed:

- Senior Leadership:
  - ICS Director: Jenni Evans
  - Chief Information Security Officer: Don Welch
  - Chief Information Officer: Mike Kubit
- Decommissioning Plan
  - ACI systems – Tower Road migration plan is more clearly stated, and those to be impacted first have been notified by email
    - 1st to migrate will be ACI 1.0, planning to migrate 14 groups/week, estimating complete by March.
    - Following ACI 1.0 move, hardware for legacy systems to be moved.
    - Legacy Systems to be migrated next, estimated to begin after Spring break, using the same process. Estimate for completion by end of the summer.
    - Greg is skeptical on the timeline and completion dates.
    - Recommendation to PI’s, when you are contacted about your migration, you should respond quickly and often.
    - Greg assured the committee that as long as there is a user on a legacy system, the system will not be shut off.
  - Discussion on difficulties encountered by new faculty who need to purchase computing time but are told no resources are available.
    - Greg shared what he sees currently as 6 possible options for purchasing clusters, and he hopes to have his list reviewed by senior leadership and approved as soon as possible. Greg will go back to ACI to clarify their current capacity. But agrees that the next few months at least will be tight and will impact new faculty’s ability to do research.
    - Planning to invite a representative from ACI to join this committee as ex-officio in order to help provide up to date information.

CONCLUSIONS
Action: Adri will invite a representative from ACI to the next meeting.
CONTINUING ACTION for committee members: be proactive in your departments, either at department meetings or directly with colleagues to encourage communication of needs.

3. **UPDATE**

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<th>DISCUSSION</th>
<th>Jerry Ciolkosz, IT, discussed:</th>
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<td>• COE IT currently working on DR (disaster recovery), Hershey Tower Road linking. Discussion focused on how 80 different IT units are doing IT at the university 80 different ways, but perhaps with current senior leadership changes and innovation this will start to change, but it is going to take time.</td>
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<td>• Responded to a question on administrative rights in the college.</td>
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<td>o He is participating on an RCCI committee to look at guidelines for administrative rights university-wide. He believes this will look a lot like the existing COE college level guidelines.</td>
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<td>▪ This committee is constructing a survey to attempt to get a true picture of the availability of administrative rights to researchers across campus. This COE-RCC committee will receive the survey during the testing phase, prior to distribution to the full research community on campus.</td>
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<td>o Importance of disseminating information and educating faculty and students in our college on the current policy and how to request exceptions was discussed. Jerry would be happy to speak at department faculty meetings, but how to reach the students?</td>
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<td>o Reality on the majority of students turning to using personal computers for their research in order to bypass administrative rights was discussed. Jerry asked for ideas, online training to qualify for administrative rights was discussed.</td>
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<td>o Travel laptops used by faculty can be given a local account with administrative rights upon request. Temporary privilege escalation is permitted, but logging directly into the computer with the administrative account is restricted. Not all were aware of this, again education and information dissemination is needed, but email is not highly effective.</td>
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| CONCLUSIONS | ACTION: Jerry will be happy to speak at department meetings, so please check with your departments if you are interested. |

Minutes submitted by Susie Sherlock, Asst. to the Assoc. Dean for Research

**ACTION:** Susie will be scheduling the next meeting for April, a doodle poll will be sent in the next few weeks.