

# COE Research Computing Committee

MINUTES

OCTOBER 14, 2019

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<p><b>Present:</b> Daning Huang (Aero); Cijin Raj (ABE); Nathan Brown (AE); Xiao Liu (BME); Mike Hillman (CEE); Hui Yang (IME); Bladimir Ramos-Alvarado (ME); William Walters (NucE); Chris McComb (SEDTAPP); Jerry Ciolkosz (IT); Greg Madden (Assoc. CIO for Research); George Lesieutre (ADR)</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Scott Milner (ChE); John Sampson (CSE); Viveck Cadambe (EE); Christian Peco (ESM);</p>
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## Discussion topics:

### 1. UPDATES FROM GREG MADDEN

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Greg Madden is Associate Chief Information Officer for Research and joins this meeting to provide updates on university-level high performance computing activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greg continues to encourage everyone to use him, and his new office, which includes staff and budget to support research at the level of Central/Senior leadership, for any questions or help that you need in research computing. He also stresses that the website <a href="http://researchcomputing.psu.edu">researchcomputing.psu.edu</a> is an excellent resource and please familiarize with it. Email Greg anytime with your questions: <a href="mailto:gregmadden@psu.edu">gregmadden@psu.edu</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Greg spoke about the ‘misperception’ that this university doesn’t have everything that faculty need to do computing, including security being too difficult, and again stresses if you have a problem or a need, contact him.</li></ul></li><li>• Greg reiterated that the ‘state of the Cloud’ for data here is great, and reminded that there are consultants available at the university to work with you on getting spun up to use the cloud. Working on the cloud can be a more efficient and cost-effective way to work with data than you might think. To get more information: <a href="https://www.cloud.psu.edu/">https://www.cloud.psu.edu/</a>. Greg mentioned two platforms, AWS and Azure and discussed issues such as data transfers best on Azure, and security issues. Jerry also recommends working with the Cloud Team do discuss needs and solutions. Greg has slides that may be helpful and will share.</li><li>• More information : Research Cloud at ICS<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ You may now purchase a service-level agreement (SLA) for virtual cores, or you may request a “Try ACI” SLA to test them out. You may refer to our announcement (<a href="https://ics.psu.edu/cost-effective-cloud-research-computing-options-now-available-for-researchers">https://ics.psu.edu/cost-effective-cloud-research-computing-options-now-available-for-researchers</a>) for more information. To purchase either type of SLA, please contact Derek Leydig at <a href="mailto:dml129@psu.edu">dml129@psu.edu</a>&lt;<a href="mailto:dml129@psu.edu">mailto:dml129@psu.edu</a>&gt;.</li></ul></li><li>• There is a funding opportunity available for the right project, as part of the Microsoft R-75 Program. They are looking for a shovel-ready research project that can utilize Azure. Let Greg know if you think you might have a project that fits.</li><li>•</li></ul>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<p>1. Faculty: If you need Greg’s help with computing or IT in general, you can contact him at <a href="mailto:gem19@psu.edu">gem19@psu.edu</a>. Do not hesitate to contact Greg with questions.</p>

### 2. UPDATES FROM MIKE HILLMAN

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Mike is chair of the COE research committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike attended the ICS kick-off committee meeting and reports the following:</li> <li>• PUBLICIZING YOUR RESEARCH WITH ICS Jenni mentioned at the meeting that the ICS communications team is a resource available to you if you would like help publicizing research. Please contact me if you have something in mind, and our science writer, Matt Swayne, and I will schedule a time to chat. We will coordinate with any communications team in your college, department or other unit so that PR efforts are aligned.</li> <li>• ICS has a co-hire program available, which happens in conjunction with Department Heads.</li> <li>• ICS has an IBM Supercomputer that was gifted, and time is available for users. Contact Liam Jackson, Communications Manager at ICS, <a href="mailto:lnj104@psu.edu">lnj104@psu.edu</a>, if you are interested or have questions.</li> </ul>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike has offered to continue to chair this committee for now, but please contact George if you are willing to chair this committee.</li> </ul>

### 3. UPDATES FROM JERRY CIOLKOSZ

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerry stated the college IT is committed to a “Yes” environment, and so if you receive a ‘no’ answer, please interpret it instead as ‘let us try to help you find a way” and get in touch.</li> <li>• Jerry talked about ATO – Authority to Operate, and said there is a person in the COE that is dedicated to working out solutions with faculty. Please reach out to IT and let them know, well in advance of a project, and they will work with you on the requirements. Identifying the level of security required (3 or 4 require such things as export control, HIPAA security) and you can go to the website: <a href="http://security.psu.edu">security.psu.edu</a> to get an estimate of your security level on their public tool.</li> <li>• Qualtrics: If you use out surveys as part of your work, the college of engineering now has a college-wide license available. Jerry has sent out an email very recently with the information and a link to follow to register for an account. Qualtrics cannot be used to collect secure data.</li> </ul>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	

### 4. UPDATES ABOUT OTHER COMMITTEES

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>RCCI (Research Computing &amp; Cyberinfrastructure) and RCCI Advisory Committee. Greg provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCCI: this is a faculty led shared governance committee addressing High Performance Research Computing. We have COE representatives, and if you are interested please let Greg know and he will direct you to the appropriate people.</li> </ul>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	

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

**ACTION:** Susie will be scheduling the next meeting for December; a doodle poll will be sent in November.