

Research & Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: University Hall, Room 420B (Collaboration Space)

Present: Brett Harnett, Rich Beck, Kristen Burgess, Chris Collins, John Kennedy, CJ Kim, Kurt Roberts, Larry Schartman

Guests: Tom Beck, A&S Chemistry, Chair of Ohio Super Computer Users Group
Tara Wood, Director of Export Controls, Research Compliance & Regulatory Affairs

Apologies: Ted Baldwin, Bruce Burton, Adam Chekour, Jane Combs, Michal Kouril, Steven Doehler, David Linger, Elaine Miller, Michael Richardson, Jane Strasser, Leslie Schick, Matt Hartman, Phil Taylor, Behrad Begheri, Xia Wang, John Wallrodt

1. Review and Approve Minutes

- Brett Harnett chaired the meeting. Larry Schartman motioned to approve the previous month's meeting minutes. Kurt Roberts seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the January meeting minutes with no changes.

2. Old Business (update on Action Items from previous meeting)

- Chris Collins updated that Jane Combs is working with Gary Casson, the UCIT Manager for Strategic Sourcing, to see if Children's can use UC's Tableau license.

3. Export Controls and Specialized Data Storage Needs

- Due to inclement weather and the high number of committee members and guests unable to attend, Brett Harnett motioned to table this scheduled discussion for another time, and the committee unanimously agreed.

Research & Development Committee

Committee Chair

Jane Combs

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Committee Co-Chair

Brett Harnett

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Current Committee

Members

Ted Baldwin
Richard Beck
Kristen Burgess
Bruce Burton
Adam Chekour
Steven Doehler
Matt Hartman
John Kennedy
Changjoo Kim
Michal Kouril
David Linger
Elaine Miller
Michael Richardson
Kurt Roberts
Larry Schartman
Leslie Schick
Jane Strasser
Phil Taylor
John Wallrodt
Xia Wang

Graduate and Undergraduate students
Behrad Bagheri (G)

Meeting Schedule:

2nd Tuesday of the month
January 12, 2016
February 9, 2016
March 8, 2016

4. High Performance Computing (HPC) Needs Analysis

- Due to inclement weather and the high number of committee members and guests unable to attend, Brett Harnett motioned to table this scheduled discussion for another time, and the committee unanimously agreed.

5. UC Research Institute Update – David Linger

- Due to inclement weather and the high number of committee members and guests unable to attend, Brett Harnett motioned to table this scheduled discussion for another time, and the committee unanimously agreed.

6. Ohio Super Computer User Group – Tom Beck

- Tom Beck discussed his role as chair of the Ohio Super Computer (OSC) Users Group and invited members of the committee to contact him for information or assistance. He also offered to provide whatever assistance the committee might need from him to coordinate greater usage of the service from UC.
- Tom briefly recapped the OSC's historic origins from Ohio State University's (OSU) chemistry department and its subsequent growth to include many academic and industry users in the state. He also discussed his own experience using the cluster and explaining how the "condo" model works. He believes that the OSC represents a great resource and top flight service and wants to encourage UC researchers to take advantage of the service.
- Brett Harnett asked if OSC was as "elastic" as Azure or Amazon Web Services (AWS). Tom replied that it was moving in that direction, but not quite as elastic as commercial services.
- There was some discussion that perhaps lack of use of OSC at UC was a communication issue. Tom felt that there was a misunderstanding of how onerous the proposal process is to use OSC's resources, that the proposal process was perhaps much simpler than people realized. Brett Harnett also suggested it might be helpful for successful OSC users to tell their "eureka moment" stories about how the OSC service has benefited their research. Tom agreed that was a good idea.
- Larry Schartman asked if OSC provided Openstack. Tom replied that he wasn't sure about that and would have to check. Larry discussed that there may always be a need for local HPC as learning environments and for small scale projects or just starting projects, and it might be appropriate to use local HPC as a staging area before a project is ready to be moved to OSC. Tom agreed that that was a good example.
- Tom reported that the diversity of use cases at OSC was increasing all the time, previously was majority hard sciences but they are seeing more use cases like psychology, big data, medical uses. Brett asked if OSC could provide information about that diversity to help show the different types of users of the service, Tom replied that it should be easy to get that information.
- Brett Harnett asked if OSC was coordinating with the institutions who were are also CTSA (Clinical Translation Science Award) awardees, which includes UC, OSU, and Case Western, and Tom did not think so. Brett suggested that if HPC is a needed component of that inter-institutional project, then it might be beneficial for OSC staff to meet with the grant team.
- Tom and Larry suggested that if faculty are too busy to attend the OSC User Group meetings in Columbus, it might be beneficial to send graduate students in their place.

Adjournment

- The committee adjourned at 1:38 PM. Minutes submitted by Chris Collins.