Research & Development Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 14th, 2018
Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Location: University Hall, Room 420b

Attendees: Phil Taylor, John Kennedy, Chris Collins, Annette Ready, Jane Combs, John Wallrodt, Brett Kottmann, Russ McMahon, Victoria Wangia-Anderson, Michal Kouril,

Guests: Jamie Byrne, Don Rainwater

Apologies: Abdulaziz Bahha, Ted Baldwin, Tiffany Grant, Brett Harnett, Changjoo Kim, Chris Noel, Michael Richardson, Larry Schartman

1. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes (attached)
   a. John Kennedy moved to approve the minutes. Brett Kottmann seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. HLC Announcement (Jamie Byrne)
   a. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC, an institutional accreditor in the US) will be visiting UC’s campus on September 24th-26th for UC’s reaccreditation. UC submitted an Assurance Document and a Compliance Document for HLC’s review.
   b. When on site, they will conduct meetings with specific groups and hold open sessions. If you are asked to participate in an open session with HLC, please answer questions openly and honestly, but refrain from airing complaints.
   c. Once the schedule is finalized it will be posted to the website: https://www.uc.edu/hlcaccreditation.html
   d. If there are any questions, direct them to Jamie Byrne.

3. ESS Revised Pricing Model for Storage (Don Rainwater)
a. Don Rainwater’s team identified two goals:
   i. *To modernize the infrastructure at UC.* A lot of the equipment is over 10 years old. Recently made some progress towards this goal by installing a Cisco UCS.
   ii. *Drive rates down as much as possible and make building a server simpler.* Before, building a server start at $52. UC has moved to a ‘a la cart’ model. The user specifies the number of CPUs, amount of memory, the type of storage they want.
      - HPC storage was 46 cents per gigabyte with VMAX, UC now has XtremIO and is now 14 cents per gigabyte.

b. [https://www.uc.edu/ucit/services/billing.html](https://www.uc.edu/ucit/services/billing.html)

c. The next stage is to review back up prices and back up replacement systems. UC’s current data domain’s end of life is 2020. Their group will be working on this issue this coming year.

d. Not all colleges are backing up their research. Their hope it to make these rates more attractive so colleges will no longer want to offer their own storage and back up options.

4. **Committee Membership (Annette Ready)**
   a. Welcome new member Russ McMahon, IT Associate Professor in CECH, Faculty Senate Representative
   b. Term Expiration – Brett Harnett’s Co-chair term ends in September. Nominations for the Non IT@UC Co-chair will be submitted to Chrissy Harris. The committee will vote on nominations during the September committee meeting.
   c. Student Representation – Chrissy is planning to reach out on behalf of the co-chairs to the President of the Graduate Student Governance Association for participation and/or help in identifying other possible graduate student representation for the committee. Jane Combs suggested reaching out to the students who have attended the XSEDE events.
   d. The committee would like the roster to be put back on the grey sidebar.

5. **Ohio Supercomputer Center (Jane Combs)**
   a. Ohio Supercomputer Center has updated their policy and will start charging each faculty member over 10k resources. UC has agreed to pay for some of those charges and additional charges will go back to department heads.
   b. They analyzed data from last year and estimated that UC would have been charged 81k if OSC had been charging. A pricing model has been put together for the next two fiscal year, but is subject to change. The executive committee needs to come up with a plan for the department heads that are being affected by this increase.
   c. An approval process has been established for new Ohio Supercomputer users. Three UC researchers are currently going through the process. A list of who is using OSC, what area the users are from, and who is being added could be a beneficial report for the committee to review.
   d. Patrick Clark will be going to Council of Deans to communicate the new changes.

6. **EIT Accessibility Training Course (Annette Ready)**
   a. The Accessibility Network at UC has been responding to the Office of Civil Rights
request from 2015.

b. There is a high level accessibility course available on Bb that is mandatory for all staff and faculty. There are 5 modules and takes roughly 30 minutes to complete. On September 25th, UC will report to OCR how many staff and faculty have taken the training.

c. A campaign is in place to promote training. Encourage colleagues to take the training. It was distributed via eCurrents and Triple D.

7. **SuperComputing ’19 (SC19) Conference (Jane Combs)**
   a. SuperComputing ’18 Conference is largest HPC conference with invited talks, panels, tutorials, workshops, and a graduate showcase. It is designed to help develop and share best practices. Jane Combs will be serving on the SC19 leadership team.
   b. More than 12k people attend and volunteers come from more than 95 different organizations.
   c. There are many opportunities for students to volunteer. Students can compete in a cluster competition, volunteer to help support conference operations, or a formal volunteering opportunity that students can apply for. The formal volunteer opportunity is an all expense two week commitment that brings students from all over the world.
   d. [https://sc18.supercomputing.org/](https://sc18.supercomputing.org/)

8. **Other Updates**
   a. R&D Charge – the committee will revisit the charge during the September meeting or once the new co-chair is in place. Annette Ready will take this agenda item to ITCAC.
   b. University Staff Senate – The proposal is winding its way through the process. Have been invited to present the proposal at the Executive Cabinet in September and hopefully will be on the Board of Trustees October agenda. The Staff Senate will have a standing IT Committee.
   c. The Maker Space soft opening is on August 27th.

**Save the Date for Upcoming DCS² workshops:**

**September 5th-6th: XSEDE HPC Monthly Workshop on Big Data** – Time and Location: TBD Topics will include Hadoop, Spark, and Tensorflow. Register through: [https://portal.xsede.org/course-calendar//training-user/class/682/session/1727/register](https://portal.xsede.org/course-calendar//training-user/class/682/session/1727/register)

**September 20th:** Data and Computation Science Series is hosting a social and poster presentation in the Catskller from 4-6pm. RSVP information will be distributed in the coming weeks

**October 11th: Ohio SuperComputer Workshop** – Morning session: Langsam Library room 475 (computers provided); Afternoon: CEAS Library Classroom 850D (bring your own laptop)