Research Computing Advisory Committee
Minutes May 6, 2013 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Sophia Acord, Hai-Ping Cheng, Mike Conlon, Erik Deumens, Bill Farmerie, David Nessl, Alberto Riva

Announcements

-   May 2nd was Research Computing Day with 71 participants. Everyone enjoyed the details of the new equipment and facilities and the tour afterwards.
-   May 7 will be the ribbon cutting of the new data center and of HiPerGator.
-   There will be a press release together with Internet2 about the fact that UF is the first, and thus far only, institution to meet all three requirements of the Internet2 Innovation Platform. This was announced at the annual Internet2 meeting in Arlington VA on April 21-24.
-   The end-of-year-two review with the Provost, the VP of Research, and the CIO who are sponsoring Research computing will be on May 24.
-   The movie about Research Computing is now completed and can be viewed on the HPC website http://www.hpc.ufl.edu/about/videos/
-   The Moab/scheduling specialist has been hired and he started working. He is the 9th staff member of UF Research Computing.
-   RC is hiring temporary OPS staff to assist with system administration tasks. We do have a few interns in the Lustre developer program.
-   Sophia Acord and Laurie Taylor have created a 1 credit hour course for graduate students in the humanities to learn about HPC resources they can use for their work.
-   Mike Conlon reports that furniture is being moved into CTRB. His office will move on June 3rd. There will be a "research opening" event on June 8 and an official opening around September 9.

Discussion

Annual review and report

The annual review will mostly consist of presenting the financial picture to the sponsors. The number of faculty supported and the number of disciplines matters most to the Provost and the VP for Research.

Other accomplishments will be highlighted in the UFIT Accomplishments Report, which is produced by UFIT professional staff.

In addition there will be a short report with metrics relevant to Research Computing and HPC activities as was produced in the past. These reports are available on the web at http://www.hpc.ufl.edu/about/annual-reports/

Paul Avery suggest that a more elaborate report would be important especially now that RC has gained momentum to show the faculty what can be done and what is happening. He will write text and make graphs.

Comprehensive storage

RC is working with CNS to provide a certified Dropbox-like storage option for faculty. Dropbox itself is not secure as it is designed for consumer-level services. There are other service providers, e.g. Box Inc, that offer enterprise-quality cloud storage.

RC is also working on a plan to build a high-performance storage system for research along the lines of what has been proposed to NSF with SSERCA in response to the NSF 13-528 solicitation.

Visualization

UF RC needs to build some support for visualization. Maybe we can identify a faculty member who can provide the lead to determine what software needs to be deployed and what training offered? Sophia Acord will contact Angelos Barmpoutis about this issue for his advice and possibly candidacy.

Organization

The agenda for the summer 2013 can be found at
http://www.it.ufl.edu/governance/advisorycommittees/researchcomputing.html.

Next meeting will be on June 3 at the usual location in NPB 2205 from 1:30 – 2: 30 pm.