

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Jan 6, 2020 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Chris Barnes, Nikolay Bliznyuk, Ana Conesa, Erik Deumens, Damon Lamb, Bill Hogan, Lauren McIntyre, George Michailidis, Melissa Rethlefsen, Alberto Riva, Bala S., Erik Schmidt, Laurie Taylor, Alicia Turner, Bruce Vogel

Updates

- UF has a new expanded contract with SAS. SAS increased the cost from \$55K to \$550K, claiming that UF is using the software beyond the allowed use for funded research. The new contract allows funded research and also administrative use. But the cost is significantly higher and a new cost recovery model needs to be tested during this contract year from Dec 31, 2019 to Dec 31, 2020.
- Review RC metrics, in particular the growth of staff since 2011.

Discussion

- **SAS** The cost increase is of concern. All SAS users will be notified and engaged in discussion to develop a fair way to recover the license cost. We need to know what is sustainable by August so that we can negotiate a contract after this one expires. More discussion with the UF community will follow.
 - o Some users have to use SAS for various reasons that are complex and involve other organizations, like the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), who are not amenable to change their requirements easily.
- **RC staffing needs** There has been growth in staff, but much more rapid growth in systems and services. Who will support the 600 new GPUs? One group is using 300, and they do not need support. Many new smaller groups are exploring ML and AI and they will need support.
 - o There is the context of the Applied AI institute UF is trying to build.
 - o There has been planning for creating a sustainable model for consulting staff, paid in part by revenue from consulting fees.
- **Policy review** Concerns were raised. Erik will pass them to the policy review manager, Anne Allen by the process deadline of Jan 9. Various comments regarding precision of language were included in both.
 - o System Security – Explicitly mention the exception for computers that are part of a scientific instrument and for which a standard process was announced by Saira Hasnain, Assoc. CIO, on Dec 11, 2019 (included at the end of these minutes). Also in item 5 recommend to replace “use” by “access”, because monitoring use is standard, but use requires significantly more intrusive software on the system that may impair proper functioning for the purpose of some systems.
 - o Contingency Plans – Detailed comments were provided with change tracking.

Organization

Next meeting will be in Feb 6, 2020 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be in NPB 2165 and will be Zoom enabled for virtual attendance.