

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Feb 3, 2020 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Brad Barbazuk, Chris Barnes, Nikolay Bliznyuk, Ana Conesa, Susmita Datta, Erik Deumens, Richard Hennig, Damon Lamb, Lauren McIntyre, George Michailidis, Ann Progulske-Fox, Melissa Rethlefsen, Alberto Riva, Bala S., Plato Smith, Laurie Taylor, Alicia Turner, Bruce Vogel

Discussion

Shannon Dunn was guest and lead the discussion as part of her task this semester to gather information for the UFIT Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. The plan is targeted for completion July 1, 2020. The plan will be built around six strategic goals

1. Student success
2. 21st century ecosystem for research
3. Enable fundraising
4. Improve customer experience
5. Build analytics platform
6. Manage risk

The discussion was captured by Alicia and provided to Shannon. Here are a few highlights.

- The needs of UF faculty are very diverse: the RC systems are very important (the hardware) and are sufficient with minimal support for some research groups, but others need more in-depth support for complex workflows and that needs competent and specialized staff lest the hardware goes underutilized or poorly utilized.
- The fundamental philosophy of IT (outside of RC) should be one of helping instead of opposition, which is what it looks like today and in the past. Who is working for whom and why? With RC there is a lack of staff, but with IT has a problem with attitude. Meeting with system admins as part of the fact finding for the strategic plan could help clarify and substantiate this perception of opposition.
- The goals sound very much like corporate-speak, not fully suitable to an academic institution. Faculty success, for example, is missing. Do not make an ecosystem for research, say the goal is to support the research work.
- Ethics needs to be part of the strategic plan: UF is a land and sea grant institution, which brings obligations.
- "Analytics platform" is to open-ended; remember "Cambridge Analytics."
- What is happening with myUFL? eLearning? Do a survey.

Organization

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