

Research Computing Subcommittee

Minutes – June 23, 2005

Meeting location: Clearwater Room, SUB, at 3:00pm

Members Present: Randy Gaines (IT Services), Cyndy Kelchner (IRH), Ben Nickell (Mathematics), Ken Trimmer (CIS, Business).

Guests: Chris Daniels (IBRI), Deb Easterly (Office of Research), Swamy Laxminarayan (IBRI), Erin O’Leary-Jepsen (MRCF), Randy Spaulding (IAC), Mike Thomas (Biology), Brian Williams (MCERC)

1. Minutes from previous meeting. Approved.

2. Representation of Research Centers / Institutes in the replacement-for-TOC structure

Mission and goals of the Research Computing Subcommittee are still being defined. The main purpose is to provide a voice for research computing users.

Suggestions for representation of Research Centers / Institutes:

- a) Deb Easterly from Office of Research to represent all Research Centers / Institutes.
- b) Form a new subcommittee with membership from Research Centers / Institutes, to report to the Research Computing Subcommittee.
- c) Deb Easterly to represent **most** Research Centers / Institutes with the others to be represented directly on the Research Computing Subcommittee, subject to limits on overall size of subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: Deb Easterly will meet with each of the Research Centers / Institutes to determine their preference for representation on this subcommittee.

General comments:

- Research and academic computing are becoming more linked all the time. We need to be aware of this and not treat them separately.

Needs of Research Centers / Institutes:

- Comprehensive list of available facilities and resources needed. Office of Research already has a Resources webpage that we could start with.

ACTION ITEM: Identify research computing resources and needs across ISU. Deb Easterly to develop a department-level survey. “Asset management plan” should also include collaborations to access resources at other institutions. Policies may be needed on how to manage collaborations (internal and external), e.g., who is responsible for broken equipment.

- Need to envision what is **possible**, not just what is needed. If we pull together then what can we do – apply for grants, create a new central research computing department, etc.
- Listserv for research computing users will be useful, once we sort out who are the users

Guests from Research Centers / Institutes were thanked for their input and allowed to leave.

3. User community – results from request for self-identification (attached)

Total of 69 responses received. While a few respondents do not appear to fit within our broad definition of research computing, we need to contact everyone for more information. There is also some concern that not all users responded to this request.

4. Survey questions for research computing users (see attached draft)

Survey accepted for use. Thanks to Nickell and Kelchner for drafting it. Suggestion made to put survey into a web form and email the URL to all respondents. Nickell offered to receive survey responses. At next meeting, committee to arrange follow up with those who have not responded.

5. Summary of action items

- Gains to request assistance with putting survey into a web form. Nickell to help if required.
- Kelchner to email the survey and URL (when available) to all research computing users. At next meeting, committee to arrange follow up of users who have not responded.
- Deb Easterly to meet with each of the Research Centers / Institutes to determine their preference for representation on this subcommittee (individual member or let Deb represent them).
- Deb Easterly to develop a department-level survey for research computing resources (hardware, software, data acquisition/instrument control, people, expertise, core facilities including space, etc.) that might be made available to others. Survey all units on campus – academic, research, clinical, administrative. Kelchner and others to review survey before distribution. Results to be maintained on Office of Research website.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 26 at 3:00pm in the SUB.