Research Computing Advisory Committee (RCAC)
Minutes July 11, 2011 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Mike Conlon, Erik Deumens, Sanjay Ranka, Susan Sinnott

Updates

1. Avery:
   As chair of the RCAC, Dr. Avery presented the current draft of the priority projects and actions to implement the Strategic Plan for IT to the IT Policy Council. The Council liked the format of the single-page spreadsheet with the list of 23 projects. This format was introduced by the Shared Infrastructure Advisory Committee. The general feedback on the plan and the priorities was positive. The item that received most excitement was the Research Computing Matching Program that will be announced this month. The Council was eager to hear more details about this program.
2. Deumens:
   Erik Deumens and Charles Taylor have been working on the details for matching program based on existing policies. A version will be ready for wider discussion and feedback soon.
3. Deumens:
   A list of people suggested as candidates for the Data Lifecycle Committee has been contacted and several have already accepted to serve. Every member of the RCAC will be de facto a member of the DLC and will be welcome to attend all meetings.
4. Deumens:
   Next week Dr. Deumens will attend the Research Data LifeCycle Management workshop in Princeton. A 3-page position paper was written with the collaboration of several people at UF. This paper can serve as the starting point for the DLC.
5. McIntyre:
   The Health Science Center has a large committee on Research Computing with a very broad scope. Lauren is a member. She also has quarterly meetings with Kari Cassel to discuss the more academic research computing aspects.

Discussion

Conlon suggests that the two primary issues facing the DLC are:
1. Find a solution to the problem of funding long-term support for data produced by project-term funding.
2. Build an infrastructure of people and expertise to help researchers manage the data produced by and in conjunction with their research.

Sinott points out that North Carolina State University has a policy that the library will help faculty write and carry out data management plans for proposals to be submitted to NSF and NIH. Deumens comments that the UF HPC Center website already provides support for faculty to write proposals and that the data management plan templates are being created.

Conlon points out that there is no known data sharing from any project. What seems more feasible is that people share the metadata and then interested parties can contact the researchers to work our specific ways to share effectively. Hurdles to sharing are: privacy issues, semantic issues, and bandwidth problems.

Research Computing Day

One of the action items is the organization of a research Computing Day at UF in the second half of September. Some ideas were discussed. There will be one or more keynote speakers from UF describing how they used research computing infrastructure in their research. There will be poster sessions for graduate students and postdocs, and demo's from research groups and from the HPC Center. The expected number of participants is about 100. A possible location is room 282 in the Reitz Union.

Next meeting will be Monday July 18 at 9:30 am.