University Senate Research Committee Meeting
(online)
17 September, 2021
1:00 PM

In Attendance: S. Brown, R. Cunningham, M. Hall, D. Harrell, A. Hobaugh, M. Holland, K. Kanthak, R. Kear, M. Kenney, P. Morel, E. Oyler, A. Puniani, R Rutenbar, D. Salcido, S. Sant, M, Scott, A. Sethi, K. Wong, B. Yates

The minutes from the July 17 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

Presentation on Research Computing: Shawn Brown (VC for Research Computing); Adam Hobaugh, (co-Director of Research Computing); Kim Wong, (co-Director of Research Computing)

The newly formed Center for Research Computing was presented and described by Shawn Brown. This combines Pitt IT, CRC and the supercomputer center under one place. A new combined website has been developed and outlines the available resources to the Pitt community. The website will continue to be improved over the next few months. These include access to the super computers, data management options, access to software and training. Faculty are encouraged to contact the CRC with any of their computing needs

Questions from the committee:

M Hall asked about the access to software licenses for individuals using UPMC computers. A Hobaugh answered that they are working with vendors to provide better pricing and that they are working with UPMC to migrate these licenses to the Pitt site. A. Hobaugh said that anyone with concerns in this area should contact him directly via email

D. Salcido asked about the costs associated with access to the CRC. For access to the super computer a two page proposal is required and details can be found on the website. As regards storage 5 terrabytes are provided for free, and costs will be incurred after that depending on the type and accessibility of the stored data. These will be using web-based platforms. Governance is being put in place for large datasets that do not require much access.

A. Puniani asked whether there is consideration being made in acquiring quantum computing capability. S Brown answered that at present these machines are small and not very performant.

Research Report from Rob Rutenbar

Covid 19 update

M. Holland reported that the Health Advisory Committee is meeting regularly to discuss how Pitt will be changing his Covid stance. While there is no vaccine mandate at present the office is in the process of implementing and tracking non-compliance with testing requirements and restricting access to buildings. R. Rutenbar noted that this is a complex process and that it is was not yet fully implemented.

<u>New VC for Research Infrastructure</u>

R. Rutenbar introduced Rob Cunningham who is the new Vice Chancellor for Research Infrastructure. Prior to coming to Pitt he was the Carnegie Mellon University's associate director of cyber assurance in the CERT Division at the Software Engineering Institute. He will be responsible for the strategic leadership of the University's research infrastructure and will also serve as deputy director of Pittsburgh Quantum Institute.

R. Cunningham spoke briefly to the committee about his new role. The goal is to help researchers with needed infrastructure such as physical and virtual lab spaces, institution-wide equipment and a renewed focus on Pitt centers and institutes.

P Morel asked if was planning to look at the issue of shared resources and core facilities across campus to minimize duplication. R. Cunningham answered that he had not yet started to look at these issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm. The next Research Committee meeting will be on October 22 at 1 PM via zoom

Minutes submitted by P. Morel and S. Sant