IN ATTENDANCE:
Thomas Cheatham, Julia Harrison, Julio Facelli, Martin Berzins, Steve Corbato, Catherine Soehner, Brad Cairns, Phil Smith, Abby Adamczyk, George Hepner

Staff support: Josh Wall, Aspen Perry, Julia Harrison

UNABLE TO ATTEND:
Valerio Pascucci, Sean Lawson, Frank Brown, Cynthia Furse, and Kobus Van der Merwe

CHPC (Center for High Performance Computing) Report Review – Julio Facelli presenting
Historically, the university funded the majority of HPC (High Performance Computing) clusters (e.g. Ember Cluster, Updraft Cluster). Now majority of nodes are individually owned. We do not have enough cycles to support research needs. There have been for NSF proposals submitted for CHPC infrastructure and/or staffing in the past few months. The increase in storage requests is putting a lot of pressure on backups, and because CHPC does not have what it needs there is a large amount of data that cannot be backed up. Fixed terms give PI (Principal Investigator) and CHPC more flexibility. Needs continual investment, just to stand still and keep up with the group. If you aren’t continually investing you fall behind. There is currently no analysis on where we stand in ranking with our university peers – CASC (Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation) school & Pac12 comparisons needed. CHPC now has a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)-protected environment. The plan for the next year is using the campus champion, which will include reaching out to heavy users and asking them to utilize XSEDE (eXtreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment) resources – Julia Harrison is the XSEDE campus champion and plans to host workshops to get heavy users onto those national resources.

Motion: To approve CHPC annual report – unanimously approved. Approval is contingent on analysis with other institution comparisons shown in next year’s report.

Cyber-Infrastructure Strategic Plan
Was approved April 3, 2013 via email. An area of addition is support for data management plans and should include the CCTS (Center for Clinical and Translational Science) because we are a unique institution with a health sciences area. There is a need for a data plan for faculty who are in the process of setting up research – there are places on campus (for example, the library) that are running programs to help support
this growing faculty need. As a committee we need to look at the data management plans. Essentially we will keep this as our draft plan and call upon it as needed. **Action Item:** All members should review the plan and send any suggestions/questions to Steve Corbato and Tom Cheatham.

**CHPC Budget Proposal**
Reviewed FY14 budget allocation – stayed within VPR-requested limitation of not exceeding FY12 budget. Major concern for research is that they are increasingly being asked to budget for services (which some believe are services that should be provided), leaving less funding available for research.

**Motion:** Do we endorse this budget today? – unanimously endorsed/approved.
Something to consider: should an advanced research computing center be providing services that may be considered commodity or otherwise available through central support?

**Drivers for New CHPC Fiscal Model**
Met with Tom Parks and Cynthia Furse regarding the CHPC budget. Currently CHPC draws about 5% of available F&A (Facilities and Administration) funding and represents 50% of F&A funding allocated to OVPR (Office of the Vice President for Research) service/compliance units. Goal is to plan for an environment in the next 2-3 years that will potentially reduce this cost by 10-15%. Consider greater financial participation by the most intensive users – will research CASC centers for current practices and take research budget restrictions into account.

Systemic issues – poorly handling interdisciplinary models. It is a problem that we are having throughout campus. There is a need to integrate desktop support - across disciplinary research collaborations, which would be beneficial for all – CHPC is another instantiation of this model.

As we take this budget through the approval process, this is our year to help shape this, as going forward there will be reduced levels of F&A support.

**Action:** Will start working on a document for more sources of income – which is an issue that is on the OITC’s (Operational Information Technology Committee) radar.

**Action:** Will develop five-year capital equipment plan; this funding will be easier to obtain than personnel in future F&A allocation processes.

**CHPC Storage Incident and Potential for New Service Models**
Returned failed hardware to vendor, in the meantime we did lose data and it took several weeks to restore. Had a user town hall, out of that came a request for a task force on storage technologies. Within UIT, attempts are being made to research better storage and handle this from central IT (e.g. the data center or similar set-up). Looking
at ways to lower the amount of time needed to restore files. Recommendation that the task force be an ad hoc subcommittee of this committee.