

**SUMMARY FOR RESEARCH PORTFOLIO MEETING**

**DATE: January 13, 2014**

**TIME: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

**LOCATION: Dumke Conference Room, Eccles Broadcast Center**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Abby Adamczyk      Thomas Cheatham      Steve Corbató      Eric Denna  
Carleton DeTar

**COMMITTEE SUPPORT:** Rene Eborn, Julia Harrison, Aspen Perry

**UNABLE TO ATTEND:**

Martin Berzins      Frank Brown      Brad Cairns      Julio Facelli  
Cynthia Furse      George Hepner      Sean Lawson      Kobus Van der Merwe  
Valerio Pascucci      Philip Smith      Catherine Soehner      Mike Strong

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chris Gregg — Assistant Professor, Neurobiology and Anatomy

**AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- Genomics storage updated
- Federal research funding prospects
- Data center allocation
- Center for High Performing Computing (CHPC) and Futures Committee updates

**Genomics Update – Chris Gregg**

Professor Chris Gregg provided a general update on the research computing needs of the genomics community on campus. Although the Genomics core recently acquired 10 TB of fast disk space, it is quickly running out of storage, and the problem will become more acute as more sequencers come online. For users, the first 100 gigabytes of disk space is provided at no charge, and anything above that is charged at the rate of \$240 per terabyte annually. In addition to ever-growing storage needs, there are also significant concerns regarding data privacy. Ultimately, a good solution discussed would be to encrypt its research data on both ends, upgrade to a 40-Gbps link from the core to the Downtown Data Center (DDC) leveraging the Science DMZ underway, and potentially to take advantage of CHPC HIPAA cluster in the DDC. As an example of growth, recently the Utah Genome Project received roughly \$1 million in seed funding, and this and other projects have increased usage demands on the genomics core. They are purchasing an additional HiSeq genomic sequencer, the third latest-generation sequencer on campus. It is expected that the technology for genomics sequencing will change completely over the next five years. The growing consensus is that genomics data are now protected health information (PHI) and thus subject to the HIPAA compliance regime (e.g., encryption). CHPC will send a group to meet with leading genomics faculty to discuss how CHPC might support their evolving requirements in computation, storage, and security.

### **Federal Research Funding Prospects**

Steve Corbató has met with Cindy Furse on several occasions to discuss the anticipated reduction in research overhead funding in the coming year. It is anticipated there will be another 6 percent of cuts in aggregate research funding over the next two to three years. The hope is that by knowing about the cuts now, we can better prepare CHPC and other UIT departments to submit grants proposals in an attempt to diversify funding sources. In addition to the upcoming NSF funding through the Condo of Condos initiative, this project also brings a strategic partnership with five other schools — Clemson, Harvard, USC, Hawaii, and Wisconsin — with similar high-performance computing (HPC) centers. CHPC has been expanding its partnership with Clemson University with the plan to build a federation of campus high-performance computing centers for a more uniform national model for delivering campus HPC services. Additional University partnerships would also lead to working on joint grant proposals through the campus cyberinfrastructure community. Currently, two NSF Campus Cyberinfrastructure - Infrastructure, Innovation and Engineering (CC\*IIE) proposals are being developed for submission in mid-March.

### **Data Center Allocation**

Tom Cheatham asked the Portfolio to consider whether the decision process and criteria for space allocation in the CHPC component of the Downtown Data Center should default the Research Portfolio, or if not, to whom? Eric Denna advised that this should be a responsibility of this portfolio and that the portfolio should work to define a set of criteria to guide the decision process. In the future, when institutes, centers, departments, or research groups request large space/power allocations in the DDC, this committee should be responsible for prioritizing these requests.

### **CHPC and Futures Committee Updates**

Tom and Steve are continuing to put together a report and presentation showing what CHPC is doing to support campus research computing with a special emphasis on contributions in Health Sciences. They plan to have something for the portfolio to review at its February meeting. The committee was asked to consider the desired attributes for the permanent director of CHPC. The committee agreed that while a doctorate may not be necessary, the individual would need to understand the academic space in which the center operates. Steve will draft a job description for review and publishing by early February.

Action summary			
Action	Topic	Person/Group	Next step
Inform	Genomics Update	Chris Gregg	Chris informed committee members of genomic activities on campus.
Inform	Federal Research Funding Prospects	Steve Corbató	Steve informed the committee on the University's research funding and federal funding prospects. CHPC has a goal of submitting two proposals, due mid-March.
Discuss	Data Center Allocation	Thomas Cheatham	The committee discussed the need for prioritizing space in the Downtown Data Center in future governance meetings.
Discuss	CHPC and Future Committee Updates	Steve Corbató	Steve updated the committee on the Futures Committee activities, and discussed the process to put a new director in place.