SUMMARY FOR RESEARCH PORTFOLIO MEETING

DATE: February 10, 2014
TIME: 10 – 11 A.M.
LOCATION: Dumke Conference Room, Eccles Broadcast Center

IN ATTENDANCE:

Abby Adamczyk	Frank Brown	Steve Corbató	Carleton DeTar
Eric Denna	Korbus Van der Merwe	Valerio Pascucci	Catherine Soehner

COMMITTEE SUPPORT: Rene Eborn, Julia Harrison, Aspen Perry

UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Martin Berzins	Brad Cairns	Julio Facelli	Cynthia Furse
George Hepner	Sean Lawson	Philip Smith	Mike Strong

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Anita Orendt — CHPC Assistant Director for Research Consulting and Faculty Engagement

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Review Center for High Performing Computing (CHPC) Faculty User Agreements
- Federal research funding opportunities and prospects
- CHPC Futures Committee and director search

Review CHPC Faculty User Agreements

Portfolio members were asked to review the CHPC Faculty User Agreements for Owner Nodes and also for use of virtual machines (VMs). The Owner Nodes User Agreement sets expectations regarding the end of life for procured computational resources (with no guarantee of support as warranties run out) and understanding regarding computational node availability. The agreement formalizes the creation of a common pool of idle resources available to the general user community with owners retaining the ability to pre-empt (effectively kill and replace) running jobs on their owner nodes. The belief is this practice would help balance out the need for cycles, as some users have variable usage while others have consistent needs throughout the year. Further discussion centered on the potential creation of a countdown clock for these running jobs (prior to pre-emption), perhaps during off-hours, with the discussion of implementation details moved to the CHPC User Council for further discussion.

The VM User Agreement establishes a protocol, expectations, and understandings regarding the use of VMs at CHPC. Currently VMs are offered free of charge, however there may be a need to look at a fee system to balance costs and/or consolidation or integration with UIT cloud/VM efforts. VMs are not entirely CHPC funded. The majority of users are on the health sciences campus, as the original investment in the cluster was largely paid for by the Biomedical Informatics department. The VM cluster also hosts critical applications of CHPC's internal infrastructure (issue tracking, etc.).

Steve Corbató and Anita Orendt will continue making revisions in the User Agreements as feedback is received from Portfolio members. Revised versions will be considered for formal approval in March.

Federal Research Funding Opportunities and Prospects

Funding for the Condo of Condos proposal has not been officially awarded yet, but is expected soon. This will not bring in a large sum, as we are splitting a reduced amount with five schools. However, the seed funding is expected to provide a significant advantage when applying for other grants.

A proposal to the National Institutes of Health is under development to investigate encrypted data flows from units to the data center and back in a HIPAA-compliant manner. Awards, such as these, could help stabilize CHPC through the next potential round of Facilities and Administration cuts.

The National Science Foundation Campus Cyberinfrastructure-Infrastructure, Innovation and Engineering (CC*IEE) solicitation has several tracks for coordinated cyberinfrastructure innovation. CHPC will submit for the Identity and Access Management track with Clemson, Internet2, Kuali, and other IAM leading universities. The Utah Education Network will likely submit for a regional track.

CHPC Futures Committee and Director Search

Tom Cheatham and Steve Corbató continue their work on the Futures Committee. They are completing a needs report to be ready in the next 3 weeks to ensure it is part of budget conversations. Portfolio members reviewed the qualifications for the CHPC director job summary. After expressing interest in hiring an individual with a background in research, the portfolio agreed the proposed qualifications and job summary would work as a start. Corbato will make the appropriate revisions and post the job with the aim of beginning candidate interviews by late March.

Action summary			
Action	**Topic**	**Person/Group**	**Next step**
Inform/ Action	CHPC Faculty User Agreements	Steve Corbató & Anita Orendt	Portfolio members were informed of the Faculty User Agreements for Owner Nodes and VMs. Steve will revise based on portfolio recommendations and present revised agreements in the March meeting.
Inform/ Discuss	Federal research funding opportunities and prospects	Steve Corbató & Tom Cheatham	Reviewed federal funding prospects overall and specific opportunities with NIH, NSF, and Condo of Condos
Discuss	CHPC Futures Committee and Director Search	Steve Corbató	Steve informed the portfolio of Futures Committee status. Portfolio members reviewed and gave recommendations regarding the CHPC Director job summary.