

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes May 7, 2012 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Sophia Acord, Reed Beaman, Erik Deumens, Rob Ferl, Eric Ford, Lauren McIntyre

Reports

Research Computing Day (Deumens)

The second Research Computing Day was held on April 25 in the Reitz Union Ballroom. The agenda and the talks can be found on the web site <http://www.it.ufl.edu/community/events/rcday/>. We had Rich Leduc, Manager, National Center for Genome Analysis Support, Indiana University as the keynote speaker. The day has a focus on data and data management. The 2012 matching program was also announced and the 2 page document with the details on the same website and was published on UFIT News <http://www.it.ufl.edu/news>.

There were about 50-55 attendants in the morning sessions and 25-30 in the afternoon. The posters were well attended and the panel discussion resulted in a lively discussion.

UF Interface + Digital Humanities Day (Acord)

On April 26, the UF Interface had its annual event to bring people together who use IT in teaching. This year the event was combined with the Center for Humanities and Public Sphere (CHPS) to have a Digital Humanities Day, on which scholars in the humanities could learn about novel approaches to their disciplines that involve big data and lots of computing. About 150 people attended in the room in Smathers Library and another 70-80 attended virtually.

The day after, CHPS organized a field trip to visit labs and facilities on campus for scholars in the humanities. One of the tours was of the HPC Center facilities in Larsen Hall. This field trip was well received by all.

UF Research Computing first year review (Deumens)

UFRC is now operating under its new scope and mission for one year. At the end of May, it has to report to the major sponsors, the Provost and the VP for Research, what was done and what were the results. The (short) report will be sent to the committee once it is completed and presented. The annual review was part of the five-year agreement for sustained funding.

Discussion

Multiple suggestions to sustain and improve RC Day in the future were discussed. It is generally felt that it is a good awareness and outreach activity and that it must be repeated a number of times for it to become a generally known activity. To avoid the drop in attendance after the lunch break, it is suggested to serve lunch. Another suggestion is to have multiple half-day events on different days with focus for different

audiences. The two events we had so far show clearly that people are interested in learning practical details, less so in general science information for which they tend to go to conferences. However, focusing on the graduate student population may be a good way to get the word out about the new UFRC and its scope and mission.

The information supplied by UFRC to the Provost and the VP for Research needs to show value to researchers at UF. That means report number of proposals written that are improved and more competitive because they rely on UFRC services, number of grants awarded, number of papers published.

The meeting schedule for the summer of 2012 has been changed to merge the subcommittee meetings with the RCAC meeting on the first Monday of the month. Because of the 4th July holiday, there will be no meeting in July. Agenda for the summer can be found at <http://www.it.ufl.edu/governance/advisorycommittees/researchcomputing.html>.

Next meeting will be on June 4 at 1:30 pm in NPB 2205.