

**Notes from the ITC-Research Computing Standing Committee Meeting
January 28, 2008 at 10:30 AM
2015 Ivy Road, 1st Floor Conference Room**

Members: Alice, Hamp, Jim, Joe S., Mark, Mike, Robin, Terry, Tim S., Tom, Tim T. and members of Systems, Research Computing and ACHS as desired

Attending: Alice, Hamp, Jim, Sean for Joe S., Tim S., Tom, Tim T., Katherine, Kathy

Chair: [Tom](#)

Recorder: [Alice](#)

I. Corrections to [minutes from last meeting on December 17, 2007?](#)

(Click to review the [agenda from this meeting](#))

II. Old Business:

- *Update on CSAC, NSF PetaScale Track 2 meetings, and related.*
 - *Computational Science center (UVACSE)?* This was discussed at the January CSAC meeting. The essence of the discussion is to declare it exists – seed it with some existing resources (staff, cycles) – and create a faculty governance board responsible for allocating its resources. Many details remain to be worked through.
 - *The next "condo cluster" planning. Will there be a cluster? A condo?*
(Current (two-year-old) web site: <http://itc.virginia.edu/research/itc-clusters/>) We do not have enough money to replace Cedar – so we will extend both Cedar and Dogwood by a year. Matt Neurock may be interested in buying some Dogwood nodes – it would be easy to buy some new nodes and integrate them into the existing Dogwood cluster – wait and see.
- *Public forum on queuing policies - in late January (unlikely) or early February. (Tim T.: "Is it moot?")*
 - Doing a public forum is probably moot for the moment – hold off for awhile and see how the faculty governance board evolves – but it would be good to have one queuing policy for everything.
 - *Ed & Katherine's [review](#) of other institutions queuing and cluster purchase programs.*
 - *[Katherine has gathered some information](#) while at [BioMed HPC Conference](#) in Boston.* Several had 3 queues (default, short, and dedicated queues for node purchasers).
 - *Katherine's 2006 proposal [PBS Service Units Proposal](#) (keep on the agenda?)* We could pass on these materials and ideas to the faculty board and wait and see what that group wants to do.
 - *[CSAC request to Tom](#) for [report on current cluster use vis-a-vis PBS queue use/analysis](#).*
 - *Looking at what applications & possible TeraGrid candidates are using -- talking to one of Matt Neurock's grad students.*
- *Linux Clusters: Cedar, Dogwood Elder*
 - *Downtime for UPS switchover?* Might be in March. Cedar is done. Dogwood and Elder remain – might be able to do as a rolling switchover.

- *Summary of HPC Bootcamp January 7-11.*
 - Had 45 registrations with 32 showing up for the lectures, and 20 showing up for the hands-on sessions. It was well received – all who attended the hands-on sessions were new folks. The pre-Bootcamp Unix course was also well attended (~25 people) – and it did make a difference in their ability to move around in a file system and use an editor – most new-to-Unix folks are unfamiliar with command-line processing.
- *Update on [Computational Science Speaker Series](#)? Next speaker is Jack Dongarra (Univ. of Tennessee, ORNL) on Feb. 11 at 3:30.*
- *Update on A-School (Earl Mark & Eric Field) possibly having HPC windows compute cluster and harvesting idle cycles from office PCs and labs & classrooms.*
 - Eric Field is getting the software working on their machines.
- *Establish our Operating Agreements: Some possibilities:*
 - *Discussion of purpose of group: is it a Big-picture & Policy group? A Nitty-Gritty operational group? Is this group doing what it should be doing (policy, Big-picture, nitty-gritty, etc)? Going forward we will want to communicate with the new faculty governance group and see how we want to work together.*
 - *Use of systems and itc-rescomp mailing lists – will keep using these lists as we have been using them.*
 - *Notification of attending or not? Will notify the whole group about meetings via email – and put the meetings on the “core group’s” Exchange calendars. Please send Tom email if not coming.*
 - *Start and end on time? We will not build in travel time to the meeting schedule.*
 - *Meeting day and time? (It's currently last Monday, not fourth Monday of the month.)*
 - *End meetings with clear requests and promises for action.*
 - *Don't leave meeting with unspoken issues or concerns.*
 - *Others?*

III. New Business:

- *Any news, information from E-School? SURA? CSAC brownbags? UCIT? Other organizations?*
- *Biomolecular Research Facility purchasing high-throughput DNA sequencer that could generate up to 20 Terabytes per day; not clear presently how much can be discarded after screening.*
- *Any other Items?*
 - The Scholars Lab and Research Lab are sponsoring a Spring Speakers Series – the schedule is coming out soon.
- ***Completion and review promises and requests from this meeting.***

IV. Adjourn by 11:45 and next meeting

- *Next Scheduled Meeting of ITC ResComp Standing Committee: Monday, February 25th, 10:30 AM in ITC-2015 Ivy Road, Room #102 (First Floor Conference Room)! (Note: Tom can't make it – so Tim T. will chair it.)*
Please send suggestions, additions, corrections to: [Tom](#) or [Alice](#)