

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

Present: Andrew, Jim, Joe S., Mark, Robin, Tim S., Tom, Katherine Holcomb, Bill Pemberton

Chair: [Tom](#)

Recorder: [Alice](#) (Tom, for this meeting)

I. Corrections to [minutes from last meeting on October 13, 2008](#)? (Click to review the [agenda from this meeting](#))

II. Old Business:

- Update on CSAC, NSF PetaScale Track 2 meetings, and related. - No updates
- Storage needs assessment -- LSP dialog, survey (Joe) – No updates
- Cluster node purchase by faculty – revisit for those using non-ETF funds (Mike) – Just before the meeting came an announcement that ETF funds have been restored for FY08-09. It still is possible that there will be no ETF funds for FY09-10. ITC will postpone budget decisions until this is known. Our recommended configuration continues to be 8 cores (4x2) with 32 GB of RAM.
- Possibility of acquired "gently used" systems – We're pretty sure we don't want the Cray from Aberdeen.
- Communication with potential benefactor – No updates
- Update on new machine-room building – No updates

III. New Business:

- Gig Ethernet Policy – Mike Johnson in Jordan made a request for two gigabit ports; his LSP contacted NetOps who aid ITC is in a spending freeze. Even with the restoration of ETF funds, ITC will wait until the Governor's budget is submitted (around 12/20) before deciding how to proceed with network upgrades. Tom to contact Mike Johnson.
- Any other Items?
- 1) PBS policies. The APB is trying to address the dissatisfaction that some condo owners are expressing about not being able to get to the "front of the line". PBS can suspend jobs, although this will require more virtual memory. If this doesn't work, it's okay to terminate running jobs. Whatever we do, the ITC web site needs to explain what's happening and why (and at whose direction). There was discussion about banning all sequential jobs on the cluster. ITC needs the APB to communicate any of these choices in writing. It was pointed out that the cedar nodes are more than three years old, so those owners are no longer entitled to priority in the queue. There are zero or one dogwood condo owners. Bill will use a test cluster to determine whether PBS can suspend and restart an MPI job. Is MPI smart enough to suspend all instances? There was some discussion of having PBS set resource limits.
- 2) The high-performance computing grid is running in some public labs. This might become the preferred platform for serial jobs, or lower limits might be set for cluster jobs (again, ITC needs this in writing). To use the lab machines effectively, the "kill" policy currently in place would need to be changed. This in turn would require bigger page files, a change in the reboot policy (currently early every morning); 64-bit Windows would also be needed. Tom will talk to Stephanie Conley about the possibilities.

IV. Adjourn by 11:45 and next meeting

- Next Scheduled Meeting of ITC ResComp Standing Committee: December 8, 2008 in ITC-2015 Ivy Road, Room #102 (First Floor Conference Room). Due to a permanent scheduling conflict, the time for this meeting is being changed to 10:45 a.m.

Please send suggestions, additions, corrections to: [Tom](#) or [Alice](#)

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