

Scientific Computing Steering Committee Meeting

Conference Room B Bldg 50

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for Thursday, April 5, 2012:

Attendees: Richard Dubois (chair), Amber Boehnlein, Amedeo Perazzo, Len Moss, Imre Kabai, Stuart Marshall, David MacFarlane, Lex Kemper, Rob Cameron, Thomas Eriksson, Jen Gill (Recorder)
Absent: Ashley Deacon, Randy Melen, Len Moss, David MacFarlane, Stuart Marshall
Guests: Sandy Merola, Teresa Downey, Nan Spiers

Action items from current meeting:

Date	Action Item	Responsibility	By When
4-5-12	No action items this meeting		

Action Items status from previous meetings:

Date	Action Item	Responsibility	By When	Status
	None from previous meeting			

Agenda items:

News: Richard Dubois:

There is a new CIO starting May 7th, James Williams. He is coming from NASA Ames where he has been the CIO.

IT Sub-Council Update: Rob Cameron

Per a meeting attended by Rob, here are some issues brought up to be reviewed by the ITSC

- IT needs for Scientific Computing Survey: ranked 100 services into 10 categories, Rich Poliak of OPA revised the survey and presented it to ITSC as a 3 tier process:
 1. Get IT to do a high level assessment of needs
 2. Implement the survey process
 3. Implement database tracking of questions and responses
- Fast Track update: Assigning members to the Help Desk Task Force
 1. Each member of the ITSC was tasked to come up with two members of their group to represent their group on the task force, to allow for IT's larger understanding of what each group/ directorate needs.

Hardware Purchase Projection: Richard Dubois

- FY 12 and FY 13 were discussed, and FY 12 is on track, a current list of purchases is on the confluence site. FY12 PPA projections are here:
<https://confluence.slac.stanford.edu/display/SCA/Hardware+Acquisition+Projections>
- FY 13: SCSC members are being asked for their projections for the June 2012 budget planning period. Richard suggested checking with Fermi lab for their vendor selection process, and to come up with educated guesses for our needs here
- It was suggested that Norm Ringgold could attend the next SCSC meeting to be apprised of various future scientific computing hardware needs.

Help Desk Proposal and Preview: Teresa Downey (presentation posted on Confluence)

- CIO leadership talked about fast-tracking items in a recent retreat in January, and one of the most significant yet achievable items was the IT Help Desk Concept for the Lab.
- Teresa is now soliciting names for the Help Desk Task Force, and they are planning to bring in a short term consultant to aid in determining parameters, scope and design of this project.
- A discussion then ensued with ideas on how the help desk can benefit the lab being brought forward by various members of the SCSC. While some seem reluctant to let go of the “old way” of handling IT issues, it was generally thought that this is a good idea for the lab, but may not happen as quickly as IT thinks it will.
- Items that were of most concern at this meeting: how will a help desk caller know what is covered by the help desk? Why can't there be a remote solution, rather than the old way of having an actual person coming to my desk to resolve my issue? What percentage of problems and issues will the help desk be expected to resolve, in what amount of time, with what knowledge base? Will mac support and linux support be available?
- All of the above questions will be answered in the coming months as the Help Desk gets fleshed out.

CD Strategy and Cyber Security: Sandy Merola and Nan Spiers (slides posted)

- Sandy's portion of the slides gave an explanation of what happened in the one day IT retreat, and an explanation of what a fast track item consists of.
- Nan went on to explain the cyber Security Task Force and what was discussed at a meeting:
 1. ISM: the Integrated Service Model (manuals, standards and controls for cyber security)
 2. Encryption of sensitive materials
 3. Continuous monitoring, even beyond blue coat, and on ALL lab computers, even MACs
 4. Tactical transition plan
- The timeline for lab-wide Cyber control is the end of this calendar year.
- It was pointed out that because we are operated by the DOE, we do not base our cyber standards on Stanford University cyber standards.