IT Governance Program – Research & Innovative Technologies Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2020
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Zoom

Attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RITC Members</th>
<th>Ex- Officio Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Dr. Raymundo Arroyave</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Dr. Susan Bloomfield</td>
<td>Dr. Honggao Liu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Aaron Brender</td>
<td>X Aaron Retteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Cheryl Cato</td>
<td>X Dr. James Sacchettini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X William Deigaard</td>
<td>Dr. Ramalingam Saravanan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Nick Duffield</td>
<td>X Dr. Chris Seabury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Dr. Maria Escobar-Lemmon</td>
<td>X Paula Sullenger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITG Program Support</th>
<th>RITC Guests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X Sharon Mainka</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Missy Mouton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Ethel Vaught</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minutes: Scheduled Business

Item 1: Welcome & Announcements
- William welcomed the group.

Item 2: Long-term Research Storage Task Force
- William presented a slide show for that summarized the task force report, which will recommend creation of a hybrid on-prem and public cloud data storage system to be delivered through the Division of IT. Funding support for un-funded long-term needs should be centrally funded through the Office of Research.
- The slides outlined Terminology, Current State, Desired future state, and the storage resources and funding entity that should be offered for each stage (stages: Pre-funding, Funded, Post-funded).
- Discussion regarding storage requirements, wording on funding stages, possible funding from Vice President of Research, wording of the request so it doesn’t exclude very large or small research efforts.
• On-prem storage system will be in West Campus Data Center. Will data be analyzed in the cloud or will it need to be moved back for computing on prem? May need to gather this information from users. Can you make local compute cost competitive?
• What are preferred interfaces to get to the data? Web-like or file server.
• Want high bandwidth connection to the supercomputer. New supercomputer will be in West Campus Data Center. There is a science DMZ refresh going on and is underway, but happening separately from this. There is an acquisition for GLOBUS in the works as well.
• William will put together a document and all minor details will be figured out. A final version of this report will be sent out after the task force meets one more time to finalize.

Item 3: Setting of Objectives
• Tabled due to time constraint.

Item 4: Technology and Research in the COVID-19 Era
• Strong effort around keep teaching and keep learning. Anything this committee could be doing to help with research needs? Labs that generate data are slowed down. Is data being stored on local computers and not being backed up to servers because people are working from home? Are we causing a security risk? Is anyone using Github?
• Discussed a centralized lab notebook server, Jupiter notebook or OurStudio concept working through a web interface.
• Research is slowing due to not having access to equipment or lab and needing to stay at home.

Item 4: Aggie Innovation Platform and STAR Cloud Efforts Update
• Division of IT is working on Aggie Innovation Platform, which will provide access to three public clouds (Google, Azure, and AWS), with centralized billing, security, and identity management.
• STAR program is related. Josh Kissee has received funding from VPR for a HIPAA-compliant research environment within AWS. Built on top of the Aggie Innovation Platform with built-in tools to help select what resources to use. This will launch in July of this year.
• Would this committee be interested in a more formal presentation of STAR? Yes. If there is a presentation, discuss what is the Vital project is covering vs what STAR is covering. William will work with Josh on this.

Open for questions on agenda presented.
• Next meeting is last meeting until September as this group doesn’t meet during the summer.
• By next meeting William will try to have some numbers for budgeting purposes for the remote storage proposal. Total ask in terms of space and total costs etc. Would like to have a decision-ready report that recommends the next step and would include all of this information.
• If approved in the main meeting, this would then forward to the next committee for processing.
• Dee has some access to some levels of funding for these types of initiatives, need to make the request sooner rather than later.
• Interest around VDI? Virtual Desktops: Desktop software stack moved to cloud? Virtual Desktop go to sleep when not used? If still doing this in the fall would be mostly around teaching. Given current situation, some feel they cannot work at their normal amount of efficiency. Need remote desktops that allow to work more efficiently.
• Next time for next meeting will have a proposal ready for the Remote storage task force.

Meeting adjourned 11:30 a.m.