<u>Agenda</u>

SRCPA
Thursday, December 22, noon in Fairchild 800

- Welcome by David Madigan
- Introductory comments from members of the RCEC (Research Computing Executive Committee)
    - o Mike Purdy, EVPR
    - o Candy Fleming, VP – IT
    - o Damon Jaggars, AUL for Collections and Acting AUL for Digital Programs and Technology Services
- Discussion of Mandate and anticipated procedures, Madigan
- Discussion of Subjects and Goals of Sub-committees , Madigan

The first meeting of the Shared Research Computing Policy Advisory (SRCPA) committee was held on December 22, 2011. Chair David Madigan thanked the attendees for their participation. Dr. Madigan expressed the thought that not only was the SRCPA important for shared research computing, but that it would serve as an experiment in faculty governance with potentially broader application. The aim of the committee was to come up with reasonable plans and strategies to present to the Research Computing Executive Committee (RCEC). Dr. Madigan indicated his goal was to select the key topics to investigate at this meeting, form working groups, who would report back at mid-semester so a final report could be delivered by the end of the semester, followed by a review of the efficacy in the fall.

Dr. Thomas DiPrete (Sociology) suggested that the SRCPA could help address the failure of information which in turn crated silos of resources. Dr. Michael Riordan (Economics) suggested that David Madigan should be ex-officio on the RCEC.

Chair Madigan then asked Mike Purdy, EVP for Research and who chairs the RCEC to say a few words about the origin of the committee. Dr. Purdy spoke briefly and made a point of saying that the RCEC and SRCPA were not formed to impose a single approach to research computing, that a diversity of approaches was probably healthy. The goal of the SRCPA was to identify and communicate opportunities. He urged an open mind towards experiments and promised close communication with Madigan.

Chair Madigan thanked Dr. Purdy and asked Candy Fleming, VP for Information Technology to say a few words. Ms. Fleming indicated she was eager for feedback, and to help figure out where across campus it made sense to partner. Ms. Fleming expressed her hope that the SRCPA would think about the expanding borders of shared research computing – to Manhattanville within the University and to the cloud and other models of shared computing.

Chair Madigan then turned to Damon Jaggars, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Services, and Acting Associate Librarian for Digital Technology and Preservation Services. Mr. Jaggars noted his personal enthusiasm and that of the Chief Librarian, Jim Neal about the opportunity. He mentioned that Dr. Neal had chaired the E-Science Task Force several years ago, and the library's assistance regarding the recent NSF mandate for shared data plans. Challenges such as data storage are important to the strategic plan of the library, and Mr. Jaggars offered the assistance of library groups such as Columbia Digital Research & Scholarship (CDRS). It was suggested that the E-Science Task Force report be put on an eventual SRCPA site.

Chair David Madigan then opened the floor to the Committee for comments and suggestions. Sue Mescher, deputy VP Strategic Planning in A&S asked about funding for ideas that the committee might create. Victoria Hamilton, Director of the Office of Research Initiatives explained that the role of the committee wasn't to disperse funds for specific ideas, but to explore and recommend what could importantly support shared research computing. She added that her experience was that a lot of money was already being spent in these areas, but sub-optimally as resources weren't shared. Professor Dana Pe'er of Biology spoke about the

experience of the Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, C2B2 (www.csbs.columbia.edu). Professor DiPrete spoke about the need for secure computing. Arthur Lerner-Lam, Director of Lamont Doherty, likewise spoke of the need for shared resources and possible economies of scale.

The Committee then discussed appropriate sub-groups. A substantial number of topics were discussed. Finally, it was determined that in the first phase, six working groups would be formed:

- Survey of Columbia University Shared Research Computing Resources at Morningside, including Lamont
- Survey of Peer Institutions' resources, policies and practices
- Governance Committee for the Shared Research Computing Facility provided by the NIH G-20 grant (which is also a requirement of the grant)
- Data Storage including issues of security
- Exploration of regional and national computing resources and alternative models such as cloud computing
- Manhattanville

The committee discussed separate working groups for security and energy, but decided those subjects might be better tackled at first within the other working groups. The committee also left open the possibility of future working groups such as networking. The committee also recommended that members of working groups could be other than those on the committee in order to take advantage of the interest and expertise of a broader group.

Chair Madigan thanked the committee members for attending.

Attending:
Chair David Madigan, Statistics
Steve Bellovin, Computer Science
Raj Bose, CUIT
Robert Cartolano, Library
Alan Crosswell, CUIT
Peter deMenocal, DEES
Thomas DiPrete, Sociology
Jacob Fish, Civil Engineering
Carol Friedman, biomedical informatics
Irving Herman, APAM
Kathryn Johnston, Astronomy and Astrophysics
Sanat Kumar, Chemical Engineering
Arthur Lerner-Lam, LDEO
Robert Mawhinney, Physics
Sue Mescher, A&S
Dana Pe'er, biology
Michael Riordan, Economics