Attendees:

- Chair: Mike Purdy, Chair, EVP for Research
- Candy Fleming, Vice President –Information Services
- Kathy McKeown, SEAS Vice-Dean of Research
- Amber Miller, A&S Dean for Research
- Jim Neal, University Librarian and Vice President for Information Services
- Justin Pearlman, Chief of Staff to the Provost
- Feniosky Pena-Mora, SEAS Dean
- Jeff Scott, EVP Administration & Student Services
- Staff: Victoria Hamilton, Director of Research Initiatives

Mike Purdy opened the inaugural meeting of the Research Computing Executive Committee by thanking the attendees for joining, and expressing his hope that this committee would serve as a forum to focus on overall Morningside needs and longer term planning for shared computational resources for research.   A number of the committee members expressed appreciation of the opportunity for joint discussion and communication. Dean Pena-Mora mentioned the facilities challenges as more of his faculty require computational resources that in turn create demand for upgraded cooling systems. Vice President Fleming mentioned the need to focus not just on fixed cost hardware for computation and storage, but on the need for security and service. Chairman Purdy reassured the committee that the focus of the committee should be on the whole solution and business plans for operations as well as hardware. Vice President Neal spoke of the increasing needs that his staff, particularly CDRS (Center for Digital Research and Scholarship http://cdrs.columbia.edu) has seen among the Social Sciences and Humanities. He also touched on the new NSF requirement for digital storage and curation of data. Vice President Neal also cited the E-Science Task Force Report, which is attached for reference.   Kathy McKeown stressed the need for flexibility – one size does not fit all, and the opportunity to leverage the knowledge of faculty in the Department of Computer Science about this fast-changing arena. Both suggestions were well received.

The committee discussed whether they should extend their focus to CUMC. While it was acknowledged that there were many concerns in common, it was decided that the requirements for security from HIPAA and other agencies created another level of complexity beyond most of the research demands at Morningside, and that it was preferable to start solving problems on the Morningside campus first. It was also acknowledged that the concerns of Morningside will eventually merge with those of CUMC, with the Green MBB building as a clear example of joint interest.

The committee then considered the creation of the faculty-driven subcommittee, initially referred to as the Shared Research Computing Governance Committee.   Discussion ensued as to whether the title

implied that the RCEC was abdicating its responsibility for executive decision-making. At the same time, the committee wanted to ensure that the faculty subcommittee understood that its advice was sought on the operating models of any shared resources.   After considerable discussion, it was decided that the name of the committee should be changed to Shared Research Computing Policy Advisory Committee (SRCPA). There was also considerable discussion of the membership of the SRCPA to ensure breadth of representation and expertise. A number of designees were added, but it was also asked that it be made clear that any subcommittees that the SRCPA form could reach beyond its own membership for members of the tasked subcommittees.

The requirement of the NIH G20 Construction Grant for a governance structure was also discussed, and it was agreed that it would be accommodated by the structure proposed.

With the changes proposed in terms of name, membership, and clarification of sub-committee membership (see attached draft), the committee approved the establishment of the Shared Research Computing Policy Advisory Committee, and the appointment of David Madigan as inaugural Chair.

Dr. Purdy thanked the committee members for their service at this and future meetings.

Enc.

- Mandate and Formation of SRCPA
- E-Science Task Force Report