Research Computing Committee Proposal

Motivation
OIT provides a number of research computing services – specifically high performance computing and related services. Funding for these services has been primarily separate from OIT’s operating budget. This activity began in response to the closing of the NC Supercomputing Center. OIT research computing services have reached a point that there are important strategic and operational decisions that should be informed by input from a broad set of campus stakeholders.

Comments on Proposal
The research committee proposal attempts to be inclusive – resulting in the size of the proposed committee being larger than is perhaps ideal. Even so, it seems more important that all stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input.

Examples of issues on which the committee may be asked for advice include:
- Services
- Level of service
- Budget priorities
- Resource allocation
- Funding models

Initially the committee would meet several times to review the current services and policies. Longer term the regular committee meetings would likely be only 2-3 per year with special meetings scheduled as needed to respond to issues or opportunities as the committee will be advising on overarching policies and strategies not their day-to-day implementation.
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Draft Charge

Research Computing Committee is charged with reviewing and recommending policies, priorities, and strategic objectives for research computing services provided by the Office of Information Technology (OIT). Policies related to allocation of OIT research computing resources should seek to align resource allocation with the university’s strategic priorities. The committee should provide guidance to help coordinate the university’s research computing resources and strategy with broader regional and national research computing activities. Recommendations from the committee would be presented to the University IT Committee, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology, and Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies as appropriate.

Recommended Membership

Committee members should represent the broad research computing interests at the university. Members should include

- Representative from Research Office (appointed by VC Research and Graduate Studies)
- Representative from Finance and Business (appointed by VC Finance and Business)
- Representative from Dean’s office of each college using (or likely to use) significant research computing resources (appointed by respective Deans)
- Representative users from major disciplines using significant research computing resources (appointed by VC Research and Graduate Studies)
- Representative from Academic Information Technology Directors (appointed by AITD)
- Representative from ComTech (appointed by VC Information Technology)
- Assistant Vice Provost for Research Computing would serve as chair

Recommended Meetings

Committee would hold at least two scheduled meetings annually. Special meetings may also be scheduled as deemed appropriate by the chair or committee members.