

Draft Minutes of SRCPA of April 4, 2012

The Shared Research Computing Policy Advisory (SRCPA) committee met on April 4, 2012. Chair David Madigan brought people up-to-date on the six working groups:

- 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 Chair asked for comments about the draft survey of Columbia Shared Computing Resources that had been circulated to the SRCPA prior to the meeting. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair suggested that the working group meet again to redraft the survey to take into account those suggestions together with several thoughtful emails that had also been sent in response.

The Chair then introduced two guests: Jeremiah Ostriker, previously Provost of Princeton and future Professor of Columbia's Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, and Donald Lemma, new Associate Dean for Technology and CIO of the Business School, formerly at SLAC. Professor Ostriker spoke of the creation and development of Princeton's Shared Research HPC Computing resource which he had helped spear-head while Provost. He described the Center's growth over a 10 year period, noting particularly lessons learned. Professor Ostriker declared that the decision to create a centralized resource undoubtedly created savings for university as a whole due to the reduction of power and cooling. Princeton adopted the practice of providing incremental investment to expand the size of clusters that PIs wished to purchase in order to create University resources. As a result, the Princeton center developed a suite of machines optimized for different purposes. Professor Ostriker said it was key to have compatible PIs on each cluster to promote self-governance. A description of the current facility is attached as Exhibit I. After Professor Ostriker's talk, the Chair asked Dr. Lemma to comment, and then a substantial Q&A followed.

Chair Madigan concluded the meeting by thanking the two guests for their presentation and comments. He indicated he would try to arrange for two more meetings prior to the conclusion of the semester.

Attending:

Chair David Madigan, Statistics
Kasia Azzara, CUIT
Raj Bose, CUIT
Robert Cartolano, Library

Stephen Davis, Library
Kathryn Johnston, Astronomy and Astrophysics
Aline Locascio, Library
Robert Mawhinney, Physics
Naomi Naik, LDEO
Mark Newton CDRS
Jason Nieh, Computer Science
Nada O'Neal, CUL
Mark Spiegelman, APAM/LDEO
Jon Steinsson

Guests

Jeremiah Ostriker, Princeton Provost, future Astronomy & Astrophysics
Donald Lemma, Ass Dean and CIO Business School
G. Michael Purdy, EVPR (for presentation)

Staff

Victoria Hamilton, ORI/EVPR
Keith Mulet, ORI/EVPR