

## RESEARCH COMPUTING PLATFORMS GOVERNANCE GROUP

### MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

**Time:** 1:30pm – 3:30pm

**Venue:** Drayton B16 Edgeworth Room, 30 GORDON STREET, LONDON, WC1H 0AX

#### Members Present:

1. John Brodholt [JBr] – Chair
2. Richard Catlow [RC] - Dept. of Chemistry
3. Peter Coveney [PC] – Computational Life and Medical Sciences (CLMS)
4. Mat Disney [MD] – Dept. of Geography
5. Clare Gryce [CG] – Head of Research Computing and Facilitating Services, ISD
6. David Jones [DJ] – Bloomsbury Centre for Bioinformatics (BCB)
7. Nik Kaltsoyannis [NK] – Chair of the CRAG
8. Jacky Pallas [JP] – Platform Technologies
9. Bruno Silva [BCS] – Research Computing Platforms Team Leader, ISD
10. David Lee [DL] - (representing: Christine Orengo – Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology)

#### Apologies:

11. Nick Achilleos [NA] – Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
12. Nora H De Leeuw [NDL] – Thomas Young Centre (TYC)
13. Angelos Michaelides [AM] – Thomas Young Centre (TYC)
14. Christine Orengo [CO] – Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology

Outline Minutes, decisions taken and Actions agreed are provided below.

#### Matters Discussed

##### 1. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013)

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting of the group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 were approved.

## 2. **Update on status of Actions from previous meetings**

The list of current actions from the previous meeting was reviewed and updated (see Table below)

2.1 Action 27 to become a standing agenda item.

## 3. **Recap on governance arrangements for Research Computing Platforms, role of RCWG and look ahead to 13/14 session (CG)**

*Previously circulated: (See Doc: Research computing Group 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013, File: RC Group 3Oct2013.pdf)*

3.1. CG presented the new governance structure highlighting the creation of the new Research IT Executive Group, chaired by David Price. This Group would set the agenda for the RIISG and make recommendations to balance the bid portfolio which would then be ratified by the RIISG. Working Groups would be re-named 'Groups' and the Research Software Development Executive (RSDE) would be also be re-named Research Software Development Resource Allocation Group.

3.2. Research Computing Group ToRs.

The ToRs for the group were reviewed. CG stressed the important role of group members in acting as representatives of their research domains. JP stressed importance of devising a strategic roadmap for next year and prioritising the list of projects and programmes.

It was agreed that JB and JP would report back with strategies that were relevant to research computing at faculty level and produce a short statement of current role and future strategy of research computing. (See new Action 33)

## 4. **12/13 review: project and key service development outcomes (CG/BCS)**

*Previously circulated: (See Doc: Research computing Group 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013, File: RC Group 3Oct2013.pdf)*

4.1. BCS gave a brief review of previous stages of the Legion IV project.

4.2. BCS updated all of the Scrum internal process for development and operations work which had been implemented to improve virtual team work. BCS highlighted that over the past six months Scrum had facilitated efficient delegation, best practice software methodology while exposing and resolving problems proficiently.

4.3. BCS presented a list of 9 items for 2013/14 of planned improvements and work on research computing platform. It was noted that this information was extremely useful for directing strategy at departmental level in order to offer a better service and therefore a regular update should become a standing agenda item. In particular, the Group was interested in learning more about the planned R&D /investigative work around the use of Cloud technologies and services.

**AGREED**

## **5. 13/14 Capital budgets and associated projects – status report**

*Previously circulated: (See Doc: Research computing Group 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013, File: RC Group 3Oct2013.pdf)*

- 5.1. CG presented two scenarios for 13/14 capital budgets and Projects based on approval of either a capital budget of £11m or £6.6m. Both scenarios included additional funding of £293k for CHAPTER community for HPC, which would be absorbed by the Legion IV Stage 3 compute expansion project which was just starting up. It was noted that the Project Board included two members of the Group. It was agreed that for future major projects the Group should be consulted regarding representation and reporting prior to project start-up. In the case of the current stage of the Legion IV project, it was agreed that the Group would be asked for comment on key decisions via email, as input to decision making by the Project Board noting that Group members David Jones and Angelos Michaelides are members of the Project Board (See new Action 34).  
**AGREED**

## **6. Report from CRAG (CRAG Chair)**

- 6.1. NK informed all of CRAG policy updates:
- A single application for all platforms
  - Priority access granted by special request and by purchasing of compute nodes
  - Legion to run parallel jobs requiring < 36 cores
  - IRIDIS access provided to all users for parallel jobs of >= 36 cores

## **7. User Survey and Research computing Platform Services Service Improvement Programme – report (CG)**

- 7.1 CG presented the usage statistics for both CFI Emerald and IRIDIS services, as well as the Research Computing user survey for July 2013. The survey indicated users required different types of training and additional compute. CG also apprised all, of the outcome of the Research Computing Service Improvement programme which resulted in the identification of a number of Priority 1 Work Packages.

## **8. 13/14 Meeting Dates and agenda for next meeting (Chair)**

- 8.1. The next meeting will be held on  
21st November 2013 from 10.30am – 12.30pm, Haldane room, Wilkins building, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT
- 8.2. **AGENDA ITEMS**
- 1 Standing Items
  - 2 Research Computing strategy

## List of Current Actions

*Shaded Actions will be deleted after next meeting.*

No	Date	Minute	Owner	Action	Status and Notes
18	27/04/12	6.3	CG	Consult Research Services to confirm what costs can actually be put on grants, also with regard to need to align allocation periods and processes with the research services costing.	27/4 – action opened 16/10 – CG to do by next meeting 7/3 – ONGOING 2/5 – ONGOING 3/10/13 - ONGOING
21	16/10/12	3.1	JB	To seek approval from RIISG to change name from Working Group to Executive.	16/10 – action opened 7/3 – JB to report 2/5 – ONGOING 3/10/13 – Name changed to Group CLOSED
22	16/10/12	6.1	JB	To provide utilisation, usage and throughput data for HECToR	16/10 – action opened 7/3 – JB to report 2/5 – ONGOING 3/10/13 – ONGOING
24	16/10/12		CG	CG to request Max Wilkinson to give presentation at next meeting.	16/10 – action opened 7/3 – Pending 2/5 – OPEN 3/10/13 –superseded – reports on RD being given at RISG. CLOSED
25	7/3/2013	3.3	All	Send CG comments regarding Research Computing Platforms Strategy	2/5 – ONGOING 3/10/13 – no comments received. CLOSED
27	7/3/2013	4.2	CG	To report on the off-site Data Centre at next RCWG meeting.	2/5 – CG to report back after next RIISG meeting 3/10 – Discussions opened with CRICK, Eduroam, JANET & ISD re off-site Data centre. To become

					Standing Agenda item. 3/10/13 - CLOSED
28	7/3/2013	4.4	CG	Collapse £30kCloud & Virtualisation project and the £150k allocated to RC Platforms R&D.	2/5 – CG to present at next RIISG meeting CLOSED
29	2/5/2013	3.1	CG	Cfi usage reports.	2/5 – CG to provide quarterly Cfi usage reports 3/10/13 CLOSED
30	2/5/2013	3.3	CG	CRAG proposal for future Cfl Iridis Access Policy Document	2/5 – CG to amend policy document 3/10/13 - ONGOING
31	2/5/2013	3.4	BS	The Role of Research Computing Consortia and Account Application Process for Research Computing Platforms Services Document	2/5 – BCS to amend document 3/10/13 - ONGOING
32	2/5/2013	4.1	BS	Honorary staff: access to UCL research computing resources policy	2/5/ – BCS to amend document 3/10 - ONGOING
33	3/10/13	3.2	JB, JP	RC ToRs: report back on strategies relevant to research computing at faculty level & produce statement of current role and future strategy.	NEW
34	3/10/13	5.1	CG	CG to provide information to Group on key decisions to be taken by Legion IV Project Board, with invitation to comment.	NEW