Department of Scientific Computing
Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes, 2014/09/11

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1. **RCC SC nodes**
   A number of nodes has been recently phased out. These could be replaced/added provided SC buys into the RCC upgrade program. The Committee members in their experience find RCC offers cost-ineffective. It is much cheaper to buy a standalone desktop machine rather than a set of nodes, even if one factors in maintenance costs over a period of typical machine or node lifetime (typically 5 and 3 years, respectively). The RCC data storage appears even more expensive compared to computing hardware.

   The departmental needs should be periodically assessed. In particular, we may want to ask RCC provide usage statistics of RCC systems by the SC faculty and students. SC participation in the RCC program may prove optimal provided there is a critical shortage of computing power for students and lack of funding for individual faculty.

2. **LCD projectors**
   The quality of LCD projectors installed in Rooms 152 and 401 is substandard. In particular, working with graphics applications and even text documents is especially challenging in 401. In addition, Room 416 has no projector at all.

   Li reported there has been a "mobile" projector purchased last year. It can be borrowed from Michele and used in 416 or other rooms, as needed. We have no first-hand experience with this new projectors, but if its parameters match that currently available in 401 then the quality issue remains unresolved.

   We recommend upgrading the projector in 152. Purchasing an additional and of better quality projector may be needed.

3. **152 white boards**
   Those who use boards in 152 find them of low quality. We recommend upgrading white boards in 152. In addition, 468 still has chalk boards installed.

4. **LCD computer displays for students**
   Many students are still using small LCD displays. This seems not aligned with "advanced technology" profile of SC, especially in the context of data visualization and analysis but also organization of student's work (i.e. grading by TAs).

   Li reported any new displays are 19" and even larger (22" and 23") displays are affordable. We recommend upgrading the remaining small LCD displays as quickly as possible. Depending on availability of funds, even larger displays would be preferred.