

## School of the Biological Sciences: IT Committee

### Confirmed Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Present:** Abbi Abbioui (Pharmacology), Jenny Barna (Secretary, SBS), Alastair Downie (Gurdon Institute), Mark Holmes (Chair, Veterinary Medicine), Henrik Jönsson (SLCU), Paul Judge (SBS bioinformatics training), Wentao Song (PDN), Hugo Tavares (SLCU)

1. **Apologies:** Chris Gilligan, Graham Ladds, Gos Micklem (and Mark Holmes for late arrival)
2. **Minutes of the June 21 meeting:** were approved
3. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

#### 5.1 ToR for Research Computing Sub-Committee of ISC

The ISC papers for October 8<sup>th</sup> (a link to a copy was circulated) included an agenda item asking the members to recommend co-chairs for this committee, to ensure that appropriate support for research is provided.

**ACTION: JB to circulate ISC Minutes, for information, when available**

In addition, the recent changes to UIS structure meant Research Computing was now separate from the relationship management group and there was a Chief Operating Officer. The University was still seeking a business plan, with ongoing work within UIS addressing this. As reflected in the ISC papers, it was only supporting a bid for the Research Software Engineering element of the ARCHER 2 service as there was already concern about dilution of local services as a result of running national facilities.

#### SBS Survey on research computing

The draft survey from Chris Gilligan had been worked up into three surveys for IT staff, PIs and other researchers. This had been implemented and analysed. The draft report was not circulated to this committee yet, as MH is looking at the raw data

**ACTION: MH and JB to discuss and release report**

#### 5.2 Uptake of storage and other resources under SBS scheme

About 16 PIs have applied for resources, including a few pre-allocated a large amount of storage (RDS), for new developments in Cryo-EM. A view was expressed that it was acceptable to have uneven use within an overall SBS allocation. It was felt that awareness needed to be further raised and PIs should be regularly encouraged to apply. JB could advise PIs as required.

**ACTION: All departments' representatives to re-advertise the resources.**

The question of allocations of storage to COs to re-deploy arose. This was intended to be addressed by the forthcoming Institution Storage service. As the last project board meeting had only just occurred, JB reported that unconfirmed outcomes were: a) price had been agreed by the new UIS services charging group as £150/TB/year (mirrored), b) School staff FTE formula for allocation of 'free' space was still to be confirmed c) some originally specified acceptance tests were not passed but the board agreed to accept, with reduced payment to the vendor d) the pilot would still go ahead later in October.

**ACTION JB to send update in the October newsletter.**

#### 5.4 UIS/SBS liaison

JB's post had now been moved back into SBS (yet to be reflected in all online systems).

#### **4. Schools' IT priorities**

MH joined the meeting during this item. The list contained in the Agenda was considered, with incidental discussion of the uses and merits of virtual servers, and it was agreed to forward a preliminary list to Karen Douglas, Secretary of the School, as the CSBS would meet shortly. The items would later be presented in a format as advised in the previously circulated guidelines from Richard Hey in UIS. The preliminary list is:

- 1) Full delivery of research computing virtual server service (due 2016; still pre-release; conception and part-funding from SBS in 2014-15).
- 2) Integrated scheduling/booking/timetabling service (in DTL programme; priority funding referenced in ISC papers this week).
- 3) Data management services for big data (addressing compliance with funder requirements etc, data complexity, documentation, collaborative sharing; to complement repositories used mainly at publication stages such as EBI); likely to involve OSC as well as UIS.

**ACTIONS: JB to send list to Karen Douglas (KD).**

**AD and JB to develop and circulate items in fuller format, including AD's suggestions under item 3**

#### **5. Any other business**

IT staff in several departments continued to suffer difficulties in supporting facilities now formally part of UBS (itself now within UAS). It was felt this situation required more formal resolution as currently the various issues were being reported in piecemeal fashion and remained incompletely addressed. Thus, the overall picture appeared unsatisfactory. JB reported previously raising this matter with KD and agreeing to raise it again should the need arise.

**ACTION JB to form a plan of action with KD**

#### **6. Review of dates and times of meetings: currently set outside Full Terms as 10am (Pathology Greaves Room) on:**

18 December 2018

21 March 2019

20 June 2019

**ACTION JB to consult full committee via email about these dates.**