

**Computational sciences, analysis and modeling research cluster workgroup  
Meeting notes**

**Date/Time of Meeting: Thursday, February 14, 2008, 12:30pm-2:00pm**

**Location: Troy Colloquium (Wheatley Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

**Chair: Andrew Grosovsky, Dean, College of Science and Mathematics**

**Note taker: Christine A. DePalma**

**Attendees: Kenneth Campbell; Mary Ellen Colten; Deyang Qu; Dan Simovici CR; Bala Sundaram; Meng Zhou; Richard Kesseli; Andrew Grosovsky; Jean-Pierre Kulboer; Alan Clayton-Matthews**

**Excused: Susan Gore; Robert A. Morris; Jan Mutchler; Alfred Noel; Bela Torok; Sally Wright**

**Invited guests: Daryl Ford; James Mortenson; Daniel Ortiz**

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/FINDINGS</b>	<b>DECISIONS</b>	<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>
Call to order	Chair Andrew Grosovsky called the meeting to order, welcoming the members to the second meeting of the Computational Sciences, Analysis, and Modeling Research Cluster Workgroup. Those members present introduced themselves. Chair Grosovsky also introduced Christine DePalma and James Mortenson as staff assistants to the workgroup. Chair Grosovsky outlined four intended outcomes for the meeting including: establishing an agreement to what the core computational sciences are; gaining an understanding of the university's research computing infrastructure; identifying recommendations for balanced investments for the computational sciences, analysis and modeling research cluster and; exploring the access the university has to research databases managed by the library.		
Information Technology: Infrastructure	Daryl Ford, director of communication and infrastructure (Office of Information Technology), was a special guest of the workgroup and provided some information about the university's research computing infrastructure. Daryl mentioned several projects that the Office of Information Technology is currently working on including: a rewiring initiative, an internet access		

	<p>upgrade project, and a server consolidation project. There was a lively and wide-ranging discussion among the workgroup members about research computing infrastructure. Some items of concern included that there is no central way to backup, there is not adequate server space on campus for research computing or enough multi-environment and technical support available. For example, there is only one staff member from the Office of Information Technology who provides technical support for Mac users. Other workgroup members wondered if there was an appropriate forum on campus where faculty could provide advisory input regarding information technology concerns, topics, and issues. Jean Pierre-Kuilboer, a member of the Faculty Council's committee on Academic Computing Oversight provided information about this committee and explained that it could be a forum for these kinds of concerns. The workgroup also discussed the possibility of hiring a staff member to support and oversee research computing work and initiatives for the entire campus.</p>		
<p>Healey Library: Information Resources</p>	<p>Daniel Ortiz, university librarian, was also a special guest of the workgroup and talked with members about library databases and information access. Daniel informed the workgroup that the library was making progress in improving its journal capabilities and data sets. The library is happy to help the research cluster get what it needs and it can serve as its purchasing agent. It would be helpful for the library to know more about what the research cluster needs to do and asked members to identify the databases that they think will be needed for the research cluster to grow. Daniel also mentioned the possibility of the Healey Library hiring a science librarian. Daniel also provided some information to members about moving the library's catalog to a network that will allow for a million volumes and easier search capabilities. A workgroup member inquired about whether there would be a UMass system-wide library card? Daniel informed the workgroup that this initiative will take some time but that individual campuses could grant cards to visiting faculty members if they had a research relationship (joint appointment, visiting scholar status) on campus.</p>		<p>Workgroup members have been asked to submit the names of specific databases that will be needed by the cluster</p>
<p>Battelle investment plan</p>	<p>There was a very brief discussion of the Battelle investment plan for the computational sciences, analysis and modeling research cluster area. Specifically, the workgroup began to think about the kinds of faculty that should be hired in the future. One workgroup member mentioned that the</p>		<p>Chair Grosovsky asked workgroup members to think about the kinds of</p>

	<p>university is in need of a biostatistician.</p>		<p>faculty that we want to hire for the next meeting.</p>
<p>Report writing and next meeting</p>	<p>Meeting notes will be distributed to the workgroup prior to the next workgroup meeting. The meeting notes will be helpful in preparing the workgroup's recommendations. Chair Grosovsky also mentioned that another meeting would be scheduled as a meeting open to the university community. The next workgroup meeting is Wednesday, March 5 from 9:00am-10:30am in the Troy Colloquium.</p>		<p>Christine will work with workgroup members in scheduling the open meeting (Note: This meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 3 from 12:30pm-2:00pm in the small conference room in the Healey Library, 11<sup>th</sup> floor)</p>