

CASC Meeting Minutes

May 2-4, 2007
Washington, DC

Attendees: [List printed separately]

Thursday, May 3, 2007 – CASC Meeting

1201 New York Ave., NW – 4th floor

Speaker presentations may be found on the CASC website, past meetings.

Welcome, Agenda Review, Craig Stewart, CASC Chair.

Craig welcomed our members and guests to kick off the meeting.

8:00 am CASC member State Directors

Members went around the table and expressed their concerns and needs to the State Director reps who were able to attend, including representatives from: Texas, Ohio, Nevada, Louisiana, Virginia and South Carolina

10:00 am Dr. Michael Strayer, DOE, Associate Director, Advanced Scientific Computing Research

Dr. Strayer gave an overview of the DOE Office of Science HPC facilities and activities at NERSC, Oak Ridge, and Argonne. Also discussed SciDAC (Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing) program. And INCITE program – DOE's offer to open up computational resources to the nation. And the road to E³SGS (Simulation and Modeling at the Exascale for Energy, Ecological Sustainability and Global Security).

11:30 am Dr. Andy Bernat, Executive Director, Discussion of CCC (Computing Community Consortium) project

Computer science education is on the decline. We need to think about what attracts the best and the brightest – what are the next big computing ideas that will galvanize students, catalyze research investment and public support?

Discussion of the Computing Community Consortium (CCC) project sponsored by CRA, focused on the importance of funding computing and how it influences jobs and business (see <http://www.cra.org/ccc/press.releases/9.18.06.html>). Ed Lazowska is the permanent Council Chair – CASC should nominate someone to be on the Council. One of NSF's goals is to build more leaders out of the community – computer scientists who want to be involved in policy, come to DC, play a larger role in federal agencies, etc. Discussion of importance of NSF GENI (Global Environment for Network Innovations) and expectations. CCC is going to oversee the GENI Science Council – NSF needed more community involvement in this project.

12 Noon Lunch

1:00 pm Dr. Dan Reed, member PCAST, co-chair-NIT, Competitiveness report via conference call

Dr. Reed summarized the soon to be published PCAST Networking and Information Technology report which included a review of the current NITRD program and an analysis of the US's competitiveness ability.. The report, "Leadership under Challenge: Information Technology R&D in a Competitive World" is currently in draft form, not expected to be completed until the summer and then published with major distribution.

1:45 pm **Chuck Romine, Acting Director, NCO with oversight responsibility for the NITRD**

This was a set of follow-up comments to Dan's summary. Generally happy with PCAST review; looking forward to implementing. HECRTF has had a dramatic impact on agencies' budget growth. There is a lot of goodwill, and a lot of partnerships at the agencies in HEC. ITFAN: Interagency Task Force on Advanced Networking is developing recommendations on how to proceed in networking R&D from the agencies. Also Interagency Working Group on Digital Data – Cita Furlani (NIST) and Chris Greer (NSF CI) co-chairs.

Q: What about PITAC?

A: The expanded PCAST is at least as good (if not better than) the last PITAC. Floyd Kvamme is very active in Congress and with the Administration in conveying the message.

2:30 pm **Sue Fratkin, Washington Report**

This was Sue's take on the various issues around the competitive report and other national policy issues. Education (particularly STEM) programs are paramount, but OSTP doesn't want to fund new education programs over existing ones.

3:00 pm **CASC Business Meeting**

Financial report was given. All members need to **pay their annual dues as early as possible**. There are always a couple of laggards. Several potential issues/ideas for CASC to pursue were brought up for discussion, including:

- Outreach to senior high school and undergrad students
- Work force issues
- IT interoperability issues

Approach is for small groups to discuss offline and make recommendations to the membership.

Membership voted to spend up to \$40K on an ad in a special edition of Fortune magazine on HPC to be published on August 20, 2007. Sue Fratkin will negotiate the final price and help put together the ad, which will feature a CASC map and the website url.

Membership began to discuss options for re-designing the CASC website.

Friday, May 4, 2007 – CASC Meeting

1201 New York Ave., NW – 4th floor

8:00 am **Jim Wilson, Majority Staff, House Science & Technology Committee**

This was a discussion on what the Congress is trying to do to “put teeth” into innovation initiatives. There is a strong new focus on education in science and math.

Competitiveness bills receiving high priority. Major upcoming legislation:

- HR 362 – K-12 Science Education;
- HR 363 – Better programs to support young faculty;
- ARPA-E – research in high-risk, high-payoff areas;
- NSF Authorization (passed);
- NIST Authorization (passed).

9:00 am **Jim Nesbit, Director, NSF Office of Public Affairs**

Group discussion on visualization images we have that might be useful to NSF. This will help CASC increase its public presence. Send images to Marnie Briggs, mbriggs@nsf.gov NSF is devoting a part of their website to showcase visualizations.

10:00 am **Cray J. Henry, DoD, HPCModernization Program, The State of Supercomputing in DoD**

Mr. Henry gave us an update on what’s happening in the HPMCP. There was some discussion about how the HPCMP does requirements analysis vs the way CASC members do it. 20% of projects consume 80% of cycles. MATLAB is the most used application. HPCMP does return on investment calculations: HPC investment vs. impact of experiments. Even DOD having problems with applications scaling to thousands of processors. Overview of HPCMP funding and planned new starts and re-competitions. CREATE program: Computational Research and Engineering Acquisition Tools & Environments – will develop and deploy comp engineering tool sets, for aircraft, ships and electromagnetics. Start in 2008, going from \$10M to over \$35M/yr. Goal is to convert research apps to scalable production apps.

11:00 am **Dr. Kathie Olsen, Deputy Director, NSF; Dr. George Strawn, Chief Information Officer, NSF**

High-level overview of NSF views on HPC and computing in general. Need to look at the “security of doing science” – systems are far too vulnerable to cyber-attacks. NSF CyberTrust program – Jeannette Wing is co-PI. Every institution has the primary responsibility for the security of its systems and its data. The researchers have to be aware. Heightened awareness of Cybersecurity is affecting program reviews. Also working to take SSN’s out of FastLane – moving to an “NSF ID.” Q&A from the membership.

12 Noon Lunch

1:00pm Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 1-3, Boulder, CO. Block of rooms reserved at Boulderado Hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Pritchard, CASC Secretary/Treasurer, OSC