CaRDS Board Meeting

Minutes

October 10, 2018

403 Ross Hall

Present: Brian Bennett (Computing), David Currie (Information Technology), Frank Hagelberg (Physics), Matthew McBee (Psychology), Phil Pfeiffer (Computing), Karen Sullivan (University Advancement, Director of Corporate Relations)

1. **Conversation with Karen Sullivan, University Advancement.**

In her role as the director of Corporate Relations within University Advancement, Karen can provide CaRDS with essential assistance in identifying local companies that might support the ETSU data science initiative. Karen is responsible for researching donor prospects, as well as soliciting and cultivating interactions between ETSU and corporations.

We emphasized the interest of companies in big data collection, analysis, and management.
Some questions for local companies were specified:

  a. What kind of assistance from the side of ETSU are local companies interested in?

  b. Would local companies encourage their employees to attend ETSU courses or to collaborate with ETSU researchers?
  c. Would they fund internships?
  d. Would they support international students?

 Specific competencies of particular relevance for business were highlighted, namely:

  - Data mining,
  - Data analytics,
  - Articificial Intelligence and Data Learning.

Further discussion items included the interest of business in interdisciplinary approaches. Also, it was agreed that offering a graduate degree would make the future ETSU data science program more competitive. We will consult with the Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sharon McGee, about this matter.

Karen will stay in contact with CaRDS. She will approach local companies, among them Eastman and Siemens, to inquire about possible interactions with ETSU in the field of data science/data analytics.

2. **High Performance Computing (HPC) at ETSU**

At this juncture, ETSU researchers are offered two HPC platforms:

  (1) The Academic Computing Facility (ACF) at the Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL),
  (2) Amazon Web Services cloud computing.

As David Currie pointed out, our students have run projects successfully on both platforms.

He further provided information about the *condo-based* scheduling model introduced by ACF. In a condo-based model, nodes are grouped into logical units that are managed as an independent cluster. Condos are require institutional or individual investments. All faculty, staff, and students will have access to an institutional condo provided by funding from their respective institution. At this time, ETSU shares a condo with two other groups.

3. Other items

To advance the plan for inclusion of data science in the ETSU curriculum, CaRDS offered to submit a proposal for creating an interdisciplinary major in data science, remodeling an earlier proposal for an interdisciplinary minor. This suggestion was presented to Dr. William Duncan.

Our next CaRDS seminar: October 29, 265 Brown Hall, 4.00 – 5.00 pm.
Jeff Pittges from the Department of Information Technology, Radford University, will visit us with three or four of his graduate students. The graduate students will present their current research project.

The meeting adjourned at 4.10 pm.

The tentative date/time for the next meeting is November 14/3.00 pm.