Preface: We welcomed four new members during this meeting, and John provided a summary of his visit at NSF in November. Agenda and meeting notes are available for XAB members at https://confluence.xsede.org/display/XT/XAB+2018+Dec+Call.

Summary of meeting comments and XAB suggestions

The meeting opened with welcoming the four new XAB members: Lisa Arafune, Ken Bloom, Rudi Eigenmann, and Ani Ural. Staff will plan an orientation call for new members any anyone else interested in January. Staff also shared the schedule for the 2019 XAB meetings which have all been sent out as Outlook calendar invitations.

Update from John on his visit to NSF:

John was invited by NSF’s OAC Director, Manish Parashar, to discuss what a follow-on solicitation post XSEDE 2.0 might entail. The last time John had been invited was 2011, and this is a positive step and recognition of his leadership as well as the success of XSEDE. His presentation to NSF included:

- Questions including: Is there an NSF vision for what is desired? Is this a step in a long-term exit strategy for NSF? What are the budgetary constraints? What strategic impacts are most important to NSF? They had thought about some of these things but didn’t have many answers.
- John then offered various suggestions:
  - Go Big (expanded scope working to reduce duplication across the foundation)
  - Go Really Big (single MREFC-level award; treat CI as a facility)
  - Go Big and Wide (multiple awards that address various service areas)
  - Go Home (fund ramp-down with Service Providers collectively managing the ecosystem. This could encourage the creation of a commercial spin-off.)
  - Status Quo (fund a similar project at a similar budget)
  - Keep the trains running (fund something like XSEDE at a significantly reduced budget)

John noted that whatever follows XSEDE 2 needs to satisfy the needs of the community and avoid disruption. His personal interests are in building infrastructure in support of research. Board members discussed that ideally they should avoid a model that requires renewing every couple of months because there is no time left to do any work. They also discussed that Open Science Grid had similar experience with coming to the end of their funding and had to figure out a new model with smaller grants to different domain areas being used to fund a joint project. It was noted that a conversation with Frank Würthwein would be valuable, and John has already talked with him. John anticipates being invited back, so members should share any alternatives or suggestions with him.

John spoke with program officers from elsewhere at NSF in the afternoon and provided information about XSEDE and why they should be interested. He presented a pie chart that shows to whom we deliver allocated resources by their funding agency, and noted that XSEDE is mandated to support researchers funded by any federal agency. NSF funded PIs received about 41% of delivered resources, while DOE received 14%, NIH received 14%, DOD received 5%, NASA received 4%, DOC received 3%, which shows XSEDE is supporting a broad range of researchers. The distribution of consumption by NSF-supported research projects includes: math & physical sciences 48%/$12.8M/3000 node cluster; bio 24%; eng 15%; geo 8%. NSF projects consumed ~7.9B core hours. XSEDE Staff is working to deliver to each directorate a report for last fiscal year with a complete list of funded PIs with allocations, dollar value of awards, dollar values of cycles consumed, and resource dedicated to them. This will allow them to connect funded PIs to services provided by XSEDE. While this data is all available to the public, it is hard to extract from XDMoD, so
this will package the data in a way that is easier for directorates to view. It is unclear how they might use the information, but we would still want to enlighten them as to what is actually being done by their funded PIs and engage in a discussion with OAC to protect what they are already getting from XSEDE. We are trying to prompt conversations that will help directorates and help define a better program going forward. Board members noted that we should try to provide guidance to NSF as NSF is community driven, and we are part of the community. John noted that NSF feels they have addressed the need for gathering input via community workshops to help inform the future direction with RFI workshops, etc. We have worked hard to align our activities with the NSF strategic plan that covers 2018-2022, but until last year there were just two other documents that guided us which have expired. It is unclear if there are going to be follow-on documents that help inform community. The Board suggested that XSEDE keep communications open with the Department of Energy Advisory Board.