

# **Cray User Group**

**Allocations on the Web  
Beyond Removable Tape**

**Ohio Supercomputer Center  
Columbus, Ohio**

**Barbara Woodall**

# Prologue

**PI:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project #** \_\_\_\_\_

**RUs requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**RUs received** \_\_\_\_\_

**RU balance** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Reviews** \_\_\_\_\_

**Positive** \_\_\_\_\_

**Negative** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Action** \_\_\_\_\_

# **What Is OSC?**

**<http://www.osc.edu>**

**OSC serves all Ohio institutions of higher learning**

# **OSC's Mission Statement**

**<http://www.osc.edu/glimpse/mission.html>**

**OSC provides a reliable high performance computing and communications infrastructure for a diverse, statewide/regional community including education, academic research, industry, and state government.**

# **OSC Mission Statement**

**In collaboration with this community, OSC evaluates, implements, and supports new and emerging information technologies.**

**OSC, as a shared resource, accelerates the use of information technologies to strengthen the state's attractiveness and global competitiveness.**

# Statewide Users Group

<http://www.osc.edu/sug/>

**To ensure a productive environment for research, an active Statewide Users Group (SUG) provides the director with program and policy advice. SUG meets bimonthly.**

# **Statewide Users Group**

**Three standing committees**

**Software and Activities**

**Hardware and Operations**

**Allocations**

# **Allocations Committee**

**<http://www.osc.edu/sug/>**

**Oversees a peer-review grant process to allocate system resources to all academic users of the Center.**



# What Are OSC's Resources?

<http://oscinfo.osc.edu/hardware>

- Cray T94
- Cray T3E
- SGI Origin 2000
- Set of SGI Indy workstations for workshops
- Mass Storage

**CPU use, disk storage, job submittals --  
interactive and batch**

# **Allocations Procedures -- Former**

**To develop Web-based system, we needed to describe each step of the procedure.**

# **Allocations Procedure -- Former**

**Lots of paper**

**Lots of files**

**Lengthy process**

**Absentee committee members -- no input**

**Long meetings -- reading reviews aloud;  
meeting packets; materials hard to update**

# **Allocations Procedure -- Former**

**Duplication of tasks**

**Labor intensive**

**Not taking advantage of available technology**

**Application forms outdated**

# **Allocations Procedure -- Former**

**Receive proposal (up to 5 copies)**

**Acknowledge receipt**

**Send announcement to committee**

**Install 10-RU award in database (all proposals receive this; balance is pending committee's decision)**

# **Allocations Procedure -- Former**

**Add new users, new machine accounts, as necessary**

**Prepare packets for reviewers and mail**

**Process reviews**

**Prepare packets for bimonthly meeting**

**Take minutes, provide information during meeting**

# **Allocations Procedure -- Former**

**Make awards in the database**

**Communicate with PIs as necessary**

# **Allocations Procedures -- New**

**Encouragement and support for Web-based  
allocations procedures from**

**supervisor**

**committee chairperson**

**SUG chairperson**

**HPC director**

**assistant programmer**



# **Allocations Procedure -- New**

**Chairpersons set deadline for first phase of Web-based procedures**

**Efforts of supervisor and assistant programmer moved the committee from 0 (percent of information on the Web) to 70 in three months (or so)**

# **Allocations Procedures -- New**

**Now able to conduct meetings through our Web pages**

# Allocations Procedure -- New

**OSC SUG ALLOCATIONS - Netscape**

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Location: <http://www.osc.edu/~woodall/grant/>

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Stop

[Grant Application](#) [Allocations Committee](#) [Current Projects](#) [Committee Meetings](#) [Pending Projects](#) [Archived Projects](#) [Mailing Archive](#)

The Allocations Committee of the Statewide Users Group oversees the allocation of computing resources at the Ohio Supercomputer Center.

[Grant Application](#)  
Grant application instructions and form

[Allocations Committee](#)  
List of members and ex officio members with corresponding university and e-mail addresses

[Current Projects](#)  
PI, project title, and abstracts of current projects.

[Committee Meetings](#)  
Meeting agendas and notes (protected)

Document: Done

# **Allocations Procedure -- New**

**Receive on-line proposal or key it in**  
**Forward on-line proposal to committee as the**  
**announcement**

# Allocations Procedure -- New

The image shows a Netscape browser window titled "Grant Application Form - Netscape". The address bar shows the URL "http://oscinfo.osc.edu/grant/grantapp-interactive.html". The browser's menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Go", "Communicator", and "Help". The toolbar contains icons for "Back", "Forward", "Reload", "Home", "Search", "Netscape", "Print", "Security", and "Stop".

The main content area displays the following text:

## APPLYING FOR ACADEMIC GRANTS

### Grant Application Form (On-line) Part 2

**Interactive Application Form**

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#### Principal Investigator (PI) contact information

Date

Name

Title

Department

Institution

Address 1

Address 2

City  State  Zip

E-Mail

WWW Address (URL)

Office Telephone

Fax Number

The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Document: Done" and various system icons.

# **Allocations Procedure -- New**

**Create a subdirectory for the PI and export on-line proposal**

**Create a reviewer list**

**Run script: readdir.pl**

# **Allocations Procedure -- New**

**Run four further scripts (pending.pl, archive.pl,  
current.pl, updatepend.pl)**

**Scripts create on-line information in the  
Allocations Web pages**

# Allocations Procedure -- New

**OSC SUG ALLOCATIONS - Netscape**

Location: <http://www.osc.edu/~woodall/grant/pending.html>

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Stop

Grant Application Allocations Committee Current Projects Committee Meetings **Pending Projects** Archived Projects Mailing Archive

**PENDING PROJECTS**

Date In	PI Name	Project Title (links to form)	RUs Requested	Reviews	Comments
04-02-99	<a href="#">Dr. Hojat Adeli</a>	<a href="#">Parallel algorithms for multicriteria cost optimization of large three-dimensional steel structures using fuzzy logic and evolutionary computing</a>	2000	1. <a href="#">Approve full request</a> 2. NA 3. NA 4. NA 5. NA 6. <a href="#">Approve full request</a>	<a href="#">COMMENTS</a>
05-12-99	<a href="#">Dr. Jeffrey Daniels</a>				<a href="#">COMMENTS</a>
04-14-99	<a href="#">Comer Duncan</a>	<a href="#">Simulations of Relativistic Extragalactic Jets</a>	1850	1. NA 2. <a href="#">Approve full request</a> 3. <a href="#">Approve full request</a> 4. <a href="#">Approve full request</a> 5. NA 6. NA	<a href="#">COMMENTS</a>

Document: Done



# **Allocations Procedure -- New**

**Scripts create review form**

**Send e-mail to reviewers, giving URL for review form, which has links to proposal**

# Allocations Procedure -- New

## Reviewer Guidelines and Form - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Bookmarks Location: <http://www.osc.edu/~woodall/grant/pending/orkwis.990423/review.html>

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Stop

## Reviewer Guidelines and Form

### Guidelines

The [Ohio Supercomputer Center](#)'s Allocations Committee bases its resource allocation decisions primarily on the reviews it receives from referees. Please review the subject request based on both its scientific/engineering merit and its computational nature. Please consider the following points in your review.

**First, is the scientific basis of the request sound?** The OSC's scientific review criteria are not equivalent to those applied to articles in journals. The proposal should be written so that its scientific merit can be perceived in general terms even though the referee may not be an expert in the research specialty of the proposal.

**Second, does the proposal establish that the computational nature of the problems under consideration are substantial enough to require the use of a supercomputer?** This is essentially a qualitative decision, which must first be met before an award of any size may be approved.

**Third, is the [size of the request](#) commensurate with the needs of the proposed research program?**

### Referee's Response

The Allocations Committee would appreciate a review that takes into consideration the above points and is written in a style that can be transmitted to the requester if less than a full award is made.

It is not necessary for the reviewer to make a quantitative recommendation for the size of the award if it is believed that insufficient information is available to do so. In any case, a qualitative evaluation of both the scientific merit and the computational approach is considered essential.

### Review Form

#### Ohio Supercomputer Center Request for Computer Services Evaluation Form

##### Project Information

**Date Proposal Received:** April 23, 1999

**Principal Investigator (PI):** Paul D. Orkwis

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# **Allocations Procedure -- New**

**Forward completed on-line reviews to committee**

**Export on-line review to PI directory**

**Run scripts to update information on Web pages, creating more links to the new reviews**

# **Allocations Procedure -- New**

**When committee closes out a proposal, liaison  
installs award  
communicates with PI  
runs the scripts**

# **Allocations Procedure -- New**

**Script entitled updatepend.pl interactive**

**Is the project xxx still pending? Y/N**

**“No” brings the following prompt**

**When was award made?**

**How many resource units were awarded?**

**Updates the Web pages**

# Allocations Procedure -- New

**OSC SUG Allocations**

Grant Application   Allocations Committee   **Current Projects**   Committee Meetings   Pending Projects   Archived Projects   Mailing Archive

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

Date Awarded	PI Name	Project Title (links to abstract)
09-03-1998	<a href="#">Dr. Hojjat Adeli</a>	<a href="#">High-performance algorithms for image recognition, machine learning, and control and optimization of large structures</a>
09-03-1998	<a href="#">Dr. M.K. Alam</a>	<a href="#">Classroom Account: Classroom project in supercomputer with commercial software</a>
09-08-1998	<a href="#">Dr. James O. Alben</a>	<a href="#">Properties of the Porphin Ring. I. Transmission of the Effects of a Charged Center through a Heterocyclic Conjugated Ring</a>
03-31-1999	<a href="#">Dr. James O. Alben</a>	<a href="#">Group vibrations of porphyrin peripheral substituents. Sensitivity to changes in electron density and bond order</a>
04-22-1999	Fred Annexstein	<a href="#">Parallel Programming Education</a>
11-19-1998	<a href="#">A. John Arnfield</a>	<a href="#">Further Development of an Urban Surface Energy Budget and Climate Model</a>
08-08-1998	<a href="#">Dr. Keith W. Bedford</a>	<a href="#">Development of a parallel computing framework for modelling Great Lakes hydrodynamic behavior</a>
08-20-1998	<a href="#">Dr. Keith W. Bedford</a>	<a href="#">Coupling Ch3d with BBLM</a>
11-19-1998	<a href="#">Dr. Keith W. Bedford</a>	<a href="#">Performance evaluation of CH3D-WES model</a>
03-19-1999	<a href="#">Dr. Richard Nelson Bond</a>	<a href="#">OMNIS - Observatory for Multiflavor Neutrinos from Sunspots</a>

# Allocations Procedure -- New

OSC SUG Allocations

Grant Application   Allocations Committee   Current Projects   Committee Meetings   Pending Projects   Archived Projects   Mailing Archive

**ARCHIVED PROJECTS**

Date In	Date Awarded	PI Name	Project Title (links to form)	RUs Requested/Awarded	Reviews	Comments
07-07-98	09-03-1998	<a href="#">Dr. Hojjat Adeli</a>	<a href="#">High-performance algorithms for image recognition, machine learning, and control and optimization of large structures</a>	2500 <b>2500</b>		<a href="#">COMMENTS</a>
08-04-98	09-03-1998	<a href="#">Dr. M.K. Alam</a>	<a href="#">Classroom Account: Classroom project in supercomputer with commercial software</a>	50 <b>50</b>		<a href="#">COMMENTS</a>
08-16-98	09-08-1998	<a href="#">Dr. James O. Alben</a>	<a href="#">Properties of the Porphin Ring. I. Transmission of the Effects of a Charged Center through a Heterocyclic Conjugated Ring</a>	800 <b>800</b>		<a href="#">COMMENTS</a>
03-01-99	03-31-1999	<a href="#">Dr. James O. Alben</a>	<a href="#">Group vibrations of porphyrin peripheral substituents. Sensitivity to changes in electron density and bond order</a>	800 <b>800</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Approve full request</a></li> <li>NA</li> <li><a href="#">Approve full request</a></li> <li><a href="#">Approve full request</a></li> <li>NA</li> <li><a href="#">Approve full request</a></li> </ol>	<a href="#">COMMENTS</a>

# Web-based Allocations Meeting

OSC SUG ALLOCATIONS - Netscape

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Bookmarks Location: <http://www.osc.edu/~woodall/grant/meetings.html> What's Related

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Stop

OSC SUG Allocations

Grant Application Allocations Committee Current Projects Committee Meetings Pending Projects Archived Projects Mailing Archive

- [May 11, 1999](#)
- [March 29, 1999](#)
- [January 12, 1999](#)
- [November 17, 1998](#)
- [September 15, 1998](#)
- [September 3, 1998](#)

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**May 11, 1999**

- Review [Minutes of previous meeting \(March 30, 1999\)](#)
- Review of [Pending Requests](#)
  - [Adeli, Hojjat](#), Civil Engineering/OSU, 2000 RUs
  - [Duncan, Comer](#), Physics and Astronomy/BGSU, 1850 RUs
  - [Farrell, Paul A.](#), Mathematics and Computer Science/KSU, 500 RUs
  - [Kelton, W. David](#), Business Administration/UC, 1000 RUs
  - [Krauss, Lawrence](#), Astronomy, CWRU, 1000 RUs
  - [Naganathan, Nagi G.](#), MIME, UTL, 1000 RUs
  - [Orkwis, Paul D.](#), ASE & EM, UCN, 1000 RUs
  - [Pinsky, Stephen](#), Physics, OSU, 2000 RUs
  - [Tsai, Chon L.](#), IWSE, OSU, 2000 RUs
- Discussion Items

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# **Future Directions**

**More interactivity between database and Web pages to eliminate duplicate tasks (keying in abstracts twice, for example)**

**New database**

**Taking advantage of Web technology as it develops**

# Reactions

**The new system works!**

**The new system speeds up the process.**

**It was a lot of work for the programmers, but it was worth it.**