Notes from Dr. Eric Lyons regarding concerns of UITS Centralization project.

* Overall impacts:
  + Server migration will have a severe and negative impact on research
  + Estimated costs of ~$20M per year to AWS for data storage cost alone
    - Data across multiple big data projects: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1D5H-GIky9foLzPbh5rPaAYkA6w66w2Am0cTBJFrnGUU/edit#gid=0>
  + Compute impact is equally severe.  Many research projects require compute near data generation/collection (DNA sequencers, bio/medical imaging systems, astronomy).  Moving compute to AWS will not be possible as data movement will be too slow
  + One-size fit all plan is poorly planned and needed to include an impact/risk assessment by UITS leadership
  + Implementation of pushing all responsibility to campus IT units with an accelerated timeline puts an undue burden on IT staff with an UNACCEPTABLE level of responsibility if they fail.
  + If plan is implemented, leading researchers will leave UArizona and new people will be difficult to recruit
  + This in addition to the large amount of disruption to campus IT teams that have had to do an internal inventory, meet with department and faculty to provide information and try to address their questions/concerns, and work an untold number of hours to try to fill the gap created by UITS leadership
* Recommendation:
  + Research projects need to be excepted from this process
  + Slowdown the timeline
  + Do a risk analysis and understand impacts
  + Get faculty input
* University Research:
  + Overview:
    - UArizona has expertise and excellence in data science and computational capabilities and expertise
    - UArizona spends approx $750M/year on research activities, ~50% is from federal/other grants (goal is to reach $1B/year)
    - Many of these awards are due to our computational excellence
    - UITS Central management plan has a one-size fits all for all UArizona activities
  + Impact:
    - Implementation of this plan will likely have a major, negative impact on research
    - Each research project using computing technologies often will have unique needs
    - Moving all research to AWS (and a limited selection of AWS offerings) will require major retooling and retraining.  This will have additional costs and potential project delays
    - Worst case:  awards are unable to deliver on their objectives and will have to cease operations and return award money
    - Lose top faculty who rely on computational resources to get their work done
    - Diminish our ability to recruit new research talent to the university
* Needs:
  + Risk and impact assessment of UITS central management plant on research across the university
  + Clear path for mitigating these risks including:
    - Exceptions for research projects and researcher computing needs
    - Phased trials/tests of migration to AWS with emphasis on cost/benefits
    - Communication channels between research groups and UITS
    - Shared governance of policy by stakeholders (e.g., research projects, faculty, RII, UITS, Research Computing)
    - Support staff and training for research staff