

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Mar 16, 2026 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Nikolay Bliznyuk, Gogce Crynen, Erik Deumens, Damon Lamb

Updates

- Searches

- We hired one RSE and are now searching for three more RSEs. There is currently one promising applicant. The posting for level I/II just closed with 96 applicants; they are being reviewed. The level III/IV position was just posted again.
- We are reviewing applicants for one more regulated research computing facilitator; we hired two in the fall of 2025.

Discussion

- There was a discussion of changes in price. Over the summer, with HiPerGator 4th generation, the cost of the NGU (normalized GPU unit) went up from \$1,200 for 5-year lifetime to \$2,800, set by the market price of the NVIDIA L4. The other GPUs in HiPerGator can be used by any investor who purchases NGUs, even though their cost is significantly higher.
- The use of commercial AI tools and agents for UF work was also discussed. Policies are being reviewed to include AI related issues and guidelines are being written to help navigate the proper use of AI.
- The use of ClaudeCode in full access mode, when it can work on your files, is being discussed to find the right way to approach this.
- People need to be very wary of use AI coding tools, they look great and perform well for small projects, but there are an increasing number of reports of bad work for large projects.
- Another question is about availability of DeepSeek R1 as integrated in Perplexity AI. However, its advantages are now not clear anymore; many other models are performing better on various tasks.

Next meeting will be on April 27, 2026 from 2:00 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only.